10, 13th ..., 1949

5

1949

Vol. IV Nos. 1-8 =8

CONTENTS

Monday, 10th October 1949

Printed at O. K. Printing Press, Simla 1950

Price Rs. 2-4-0

East Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

10TH OCTOBER 1949

Vol. IV—No. 1

OFFICIAL REPORT

CONTENTS

Monday, 10th October 1949

Printed at O. K. Printing Press, Simla 1950

Price Rs. 2-4-0

EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Fourth Session of the 1st East Punjab Legislative Assembly
Monday, 10th October 1949.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 P. M. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SELECTION FOR I. A. S. and I. P. S.

***1142. Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state the names of Officers of East Punjab who have been selected for (*a*) I. A. S. and (*b*) I. P. S ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : The hon. Member is referred to East Punjab Government Gazette Notification Nos. 4496-G-49/45997 and 8657-B, dated the 19th July and 22nd August 1949, respectively, copies of which are laid on the table.

No. 4496-G-49/45997. The Governor of East Punjab is pleased to make the following promotions to the cadre of the Indian Administrative Service in East Punjab :—

Name	From	To	With effect from	Remarks
1. Shri Ram Nath Luthra	Extra Assistant Commissioner, Substantive permanent	Deputy Commissioner, Substantive permanent	27th June 1949	Against existing vacancies
2. Shri Kanhaya Lal	Do.	Do.	Do.	
3. S. Narindar Singh	Do.	Do.	Do.	
4. Shri Roshan Lal	Do.	Do.	Do.	
5. Shri Mangat Rai	Do.	Do.	Do.	

No. 8657-B.—The Governor of East Punjab is pleased to appoint the following Deputy Superintendents of Police to the Indian Police

[Premier]

Service (Superintendents of Police, Time scale) by promotion in the existing vacancies with effect from the 15th August, 1947 :—

1. Ch. Ram Singh, Officiating Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritsar.
2. Mr. A. K. Kaul, Officiating Superintendent of Police, Ambala.
3. S. Dildar Singh, Officiating Superintendent of Police, Gurdaspur.
4. S. Sri Ranbir Singh Chadda, Officiating Superintendent of Police, Simla.
5. S. Narindar Singh, Officiating Superintendent of Police, Ludhiana.
6. L. Sant Ram, Officiating Superintendent of Police, Rohtak.
7. Ch. Bhim Singh, Officiating Superintendent of Police, Jullundur.
8. L. Bishamber Das, Officiating Superintendent of Police (Assistant Inspector General, Government, Railway Police).
9. L. Sardari Lal, Officiating Superintendent of Police, Assistant to the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Criminal Investigation Department.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Is it in the knowledge of the Government that certain cases of corruption were pending against an Officer, who was recommended by it to the Central Government for promotion to the I. A. S. and that no information to this effect was passed on to the Central Government ?

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member has asked the names of the officers only. So this question does not arise out of the original question.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : May I know as to how many officers, who have been promoted to the I. A. S. are nearing the age of retirement ?

Mr. Speaker : This question again does not arise. Next question please.

ARMS LICENCES.

***1146. Shri Virendra** : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have issued instructions to District Authorities that Arms Licences should not be granted only on the recommendations of the Members of the Assembly ; If so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

Yes. Enquiry by Police is also essential as it is not desirable to relieve district authorities of their responsibility to ensure that arms do not fall in the hands of undesirable persons.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEES.

***1147. Shri Virendra** : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the names of the members of the Public Relations Committees in various Districts ;

(*b*) the powers and functions of these Committees ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(*a*) and (*b*) A statement is laid on the table.†

AGE LIMIT OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS FOR RETIREMENT.

***1148 Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) Whether the Government has taken any decision to fix the age of retirement of Government servants ; If so, the age limit fixed for the purpose ;

(*b*) What steps, if any, have been taken by the Government to implement their above referred to decision ?

The hon Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(*a*) The assumption made by the hon. Member appears to be that there was no age for compulsory retirement fixed previously for Government servants. This is not so, as necessary provision in this behalf already exists in the rules. Government have, however, recently reconsidered the general question of extensions beyond the age of 55 years and have decided that extensions in service after the age of 55 years should only be allowed in exceptional circumstances where it is necessary in the public interest.

(*b*) The above decision has been communicated to all departments of Government with suitable instructions, and amendments to the rules have issued.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Is it a fact that in case of Administrative Services of the East Punjab University the age has already been raised to 57 years ?

Mr. Speaker : The Government is not concerned with the University ; so the question does not arise.

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF RETIRED GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

***1149. Shri Virendra** : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state the number and names of retired Government servants, who have been re-employed by the Government since 15th August 1947 together with the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(*a*) The number of retired Government servants who have been re-employed by Government since 15th August 1947 is 366. Out of this number about 5o have since been discharged. It would serve no public interest to recount the names of the Government servants re-employed.

---

†Kept in the Library.

[Premier]

These Government servants have been re-employed for the following reasons :—

(*i*) Shortage of trained and experienced men ;

(*ii*) Shortage of qualified and experienced technical men in certain departments and non-availability of such men from among displaced persons from West Punjab ; and

(*iii*) Inadvisability of employing young men as a temporary measure for a few months only in vacancies which have got to be filled as a result of a competitive examination or through the Public Service Commission.

Services of re-employed personnel will be terminated as soon as the exigencies of the service permit.

NON-AVAILABILITY OF PRINTED REGISTERS OF DEATHS AND BIRTHS.

***1156. Sardar Sajjan Singh**: Will the hon. Minister for finance be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware of the fact that printed registers of deaths and births have not been made available in the Police Station, Sarhali, District Amritsar, since 22nd March 1949 ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that no entry of births and deaths has been recorded in the aforesaid police station since 22nd March 1949.

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the Police Officer Incharge, Sarhali Police Station reported to the District Authorities about the non-availability of the aforesaid registers in the month of March 1949 ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that neither printed registers for births and deaths were supplied by the Civil Surgeon, Amritsar, nor the police was allowed to purchase papers and prepare registers of deaths and births ; if so, the reasons for the same ;

(*e*) what steps, if any, does the Government purpose to take in the matter ;

(*f*) whether there is any other police station in Amritsar district where no record has been kept of births and deaths on account of non-availability of registers ;

(*g*) the date since which these registers are not available in each of the police stations of Amritsar district ;

(*h*) whether in any of the police stations of Amritsar district, the police officer had to purchase the papers for the above referred to purpose from his own pocket ; if so, the names of such officers with the quantity of papers used by each of them during the years 1948 and 1949 respectively ;

(*i*) whether any payment was made by the Civil Surgeon concerned for the papers purchased to prepare these

registers at the different police stations ; if not, the reasons for the same ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(*a*) Registers of births and deaths were available at the Police Station, Sarhali (District Amritsar) till the end of April 1949.

(*b*) Yes, but since May 1949.

(*c*) No. The Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritsar, requested the Civil Surgeon, Amritsar, for supply of the Registers towards the end of July 1949.

(*d*) The Station House Officer, Sarhali, was permitted to purchase paper for the registers. The Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritsar, was asked to instruct to use manuscript forms till receipt of the registers.

(*e*) The Superintendent, Government Printing, East Punjab, who was asked to supply the registers, was able to supply the necessary forms to the Superintendent of Police by about the middle of August 1949.

(*f*) No.

(*g*) There has been a general demand for the registers since after partition. Entries were being made on the old registers excepting at Sarhali, where the register was exhausted in May 1949.

(*h*) A sum of Rs. 4 was spent by Moharrir H. C. Jagir Singh (Police Station, Ajnala) from his own pocket for the purchase of a register. The Station House Officer has been asked to sumbit the bill.

(*i*) No payment was made by the Civil Surgeon, Amritsar, as no bill or representation for the same was submitted to him.

FAMILY ALLOWANCE FOR COMMUNISTS OR KISAN DETENUS.

***1181. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta** : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for family allowance made by the Communists or the Kisan Detenus so far ;

(*b*) the number of such applications, if any, granted so far ;

(*c*) the names of such persons who have so far been granted family allowance ;

(*d*) the names of such persons whose applications for grant of

[Pandit Mohan Lal Datta]

family allowance are still under the consideration of the Government ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(*a*) 162 ;

(*b*) 36 ; and

(*c*) if the hon. Member is interested in any person, the required information will be supplied.

(*d*) 32 applications are pending enquiry. If the hon. Member is interested in any person, the required information will be supplied.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know the policy of the Government regarding the grant of family allowances to the detenus ?

Premier : The question does not arise.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I maintain that it does.

Minister for Finance : The policy is to give family allowances to the deserving cases.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : May I know if it is the intention of the Gevernment to allow them to subsist or to put an end to their lives ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the hon. Premier please tell us whether the allowance fixed by the Government was commensurate with the acute dearness prevaling at present ?

Mr. Speaker : The question does not arise.

BADMASHES NO. 10.

***1184. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of Badmashes No. 10 in each District of this Province before and after the 15th August 1947, respectively ;

(*b*) the grounds on which a person's name is brought on register No. 10 kept by the Police ;

(*c*) whether the Police Department maintain a list of Badmashes No. 10 in each Police Station of the Province ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(*a*)

	District	No. of Badmashes before 15-8-47	after 15-8-47
1	Hissar	450	368
2	Rohtak	574	461
3	Gurgaon	361	348
4	Karnal	833	640
5	Ambala	927	735
6	Simla	20	13
7	Hoshiarpur	467	487
8	Jullundur	450	310
9	Ludhiana	484	360
10	Kangra	133	137
11	Ferozepore	1046	607
12	Gurdaspur	445	447
13	Amritsar	1765	1417

(*b*) as explained in Police Rule 23.4, a copy of which is placed on the table of the house.†

(*c*) yes.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta : May I know whether black-marketers can be placed in the category of No. 10 bad characters ?

Premier : The hon. Member may give notice for this.

ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION TO TEA AND DINNER BY MINISTERS

*1186. **Pandit Mohan Lal Datta** : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether Government have issued instructions that hon. Ministers while on tour in the districts should not accept tea parties and dinners from private individuals and officers of the Government ; if so, whether these instructions are being observed ;

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Government have not issued any such instructions. I have, however, suggested to my colleagues

†Kept in the Library

[The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar]

that in deference to the wishes of the public in the matter they should abstain from accepting invitations from public or private individuals when out on tour.

DISTRICT MAGISTRATES ORDERS' TO D. B. B. L., GUN LICENSEES.

***1211. Mehta Ranbir Singh** : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the District Magistrates of Kangra, Ludhiana and of other districts have made it compulsory for all D. B. B. L., gun licencees to take game's licence as well ; if so, the names therefor ;

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : The hon. Members' question would appear to suggest that some instructions have been issued recently. This is not so. Instructions on the subject were issued as far back as 1937 in accordance with which all licence-holders for possession of arms for the purpose of sport are required to take out shooting licenses, but licence-holders for the purpose of protection and for display as distinct from sport are not required to take out shooting licences:

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether the former District Magistrates of Kangra and Ludhiana issued instructions making it compulsory for all D. B. B. L., gun licensees to take sport licence as well. ?

Premier : I have stated in my reply that instructions are already in existence since 1937. No new instructions have been issued.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: My definite question is whether the District Magistrates of Kangra and Ludhiana have issued any instructions or not ? Have they issued any instructions to the clerks concerned ?

Premier : If the hon. Member can supply any information on this point, I shall be thankful.

RECOVERY OF ILLICIT ARMS.

***1222. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of weeks observed in connection with the recovery of illicit arms from 15th June 1948 to 14th June 1949 in the Province ;

(*b*) the number of arms recovered during these weeks in Ambala District ;

(c) the number of arms recovered during other ordinary days, excepting the above-mentioned weeks in Ambala District ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) 47 weeks ;

(b) 345 ;

(c) 80.

***1223. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of weeks observed by the Police in connection with Section 109, Criminal Procedure Code, during the period from 15th June 1948 to 14th June 1949, in the Province ;

(b) the number of persons detained under Section 109 of the Criminal Procedure Code, in the Province during the above-mentioned period ;

(c) the number of persons detained during the above-mentioned period in Simla and Ambala District Police Stations, respectively.

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(a) Special weeks were observed by the following Districts only as indicated against each.

1.	Gurgoan	...	12 weeks
2.	Ambala	...	5 ,,
3.	Hoshiarpur	..	4 ,,
4.	Amritsar	...	4 ,,
5.	Gurdaspur	...	4 ,,
6.	Ludhiana	...	1 week
	Total	...	30 weeks.

(b) 3738 persons :

(c) (i) Simla District 15 ;

(ii) Ambala District 650.

GROW MORE FOOD DRIVE.

***1233. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(a) whether Government has come to a decision to help the tenants-at-will in the interest of the grow more food drive ;

(*b*) what steps the Government have taken so far in this connection ;

(*c*) when will the Government take steps to amend the law to stop ejectments ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

(*a*) Government has not yet come to a decision of its agrarian policy. However, in the interest of grow more food drive, Deputy Commissioners have been authroised to lease evacuee lands which have not so far been allotted and which are lying vacant to locals on rent which will be six times the land revenue. The rent for evacuee lands (not yet allotted) sown by refugees will be two and a half times the land revenue. Deputy Commissioners have also been asked to see that no land which was cultivated previously is left unsown due to landlord tenant controversy Landlords should be persuaded to lease out such lands to tenants at will.

(*b*) and (*c*) A decision on the question of agrarian policy is under Government consideration.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : If the Government has not yet come to a decision on its agrariar policy, do I take it that all the announcements made by the Ministers on this subject stand cancelled ?

EJECTMENTS OF TENANTS.

***1234. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether he recently expressed the intention of this Government to promulgate an Ordinance to stop ejectments of tenants ; if so, the hitch in the way to do so ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Yes, but before resorting to fresh legislation it was considered advisable to settle the disputes between landlords and tenants with the help of executive authorities. Besides representatives of landlords also offered to set matters right without legislative pressure. I am glad to say that these efforts have produced the desired result and consequently the issue of the Ordinance has been postponed for the present.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: Since the hon. Premier is satisfied with the result of these negotiations, may I know if the idea of promulgating the Ordinance has been totally given up or has it been merely postponed ?

Premier: My answer is perfectly clear. The Ordinance has been postponed in the hope that it will not be necessary to promulgate it.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: Is there any doubt in the mind of the hon. Premier which leads him to think that it might become necessary to issue the Ordinance.

Premier: I am afraid there are reasons to take up that attitude. It is possible that injudicious acts of certain landlords might compel the Government to resort to a measure of this type.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: May I request the hon. Premier to place before the House the activities of those landlords to whom he has taken such a strong exception ?

Premier: I shall be glad to take my hon. Friend into my confidence if he spares a little time to meet me.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: I am at the disposal of the hon. Premier, but may I request him to take the House into his confidence?

Mr. Speaker: That is a suggession.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: Will the hon. Premier please state whether in a public meeting at Hissar he made an announcement about the promulgation of an Ordinance to stop the ejectment of tenants? What were the reasons for not promulgating that Ordinance afterwards?

Premier: While I was touring the district of Hissar, I found that certain landlords had ejected tenants from their lands forcibly and without any adequate reasons. The conditions at that time were such that it was felt necessary to take some such steps with a view to affording help to those tenants who had been ejected by their landlords and who had been paying their land revenue regularly and who had no arrears of land revenue due from them. I had expressed the hope that the landlords would help the Government in solving this problem without the necessity of promulgating an Ordinance. I am glad to notice that the conditions have improved to a great extent even without any Ordinance.

Captain Ranjit Singh: May I know from the hon. Premier the definition of the term "adequate reason" Is it necessary to give "adequate reasons" in ejectment suits under the Tenancy Act for the ejectment of tenants?

Premier: If my hon. Friend feels the necessity of any legal help, I can ask my Law Officers about it.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: Is it a fact that the announcement which the hon. Premier made in a public meeting at Hissar on the subject of promulgating an Ordinance was made by him without consulting his colleague, the Revenue Minister and other Members of the Cabinet?

Mr. Speaker: Disallowed.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta: Is it a fact that in spite of the executive instructions from the Government the practice of ejectment of tenants by the landlord still continues?

Premier: I can assure my hon. Friend that if conditions take such a turn as to necessitate the promulgation of an Ordinance and also if the hon. Member co-operates with the Government in this respect, such a step would surely be taken.

Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi: Is the hon. Premier aware of the fact that the people of the districts of Ferozepur and Hissar are not satisfied at all and that they feel the necessity of this Ordinance being promulgated?

Premier: If what the hon. Member has stated is correct, I would like to inform him that we will discuss this matter in the party meeting, and arrive at some decision.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: May I ask the hon. Premier to quote facts and figures which have led him to believe that this work has been accomplished satisfactorily and that there is no necessity of promulgating an Ordinance? I would like to know the number of ejectments that have been prevented by issuing executive instructions?

Premier: I want notice for supplying this information.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: May I know if it is a fact that after the Premier's announcement at Hissar, the Revenue department submitted a report saying that the number of ejectments in the present year was the least as compared to that in the past eight years and that there was no forcible ejectment in Hissar or Ferozepur? If that be so why did the Government stick to its policy of promulgating an Ordinance and made an announcement to that effect through the Public Works Minister?

Premier: I do not think I can usefully add any thing to the very clear answer I have already given to the question. If there are circumstances justifying the resort to this special legislation Government will not hesitate to proceed with it.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: Since there appeared to be no provocation for such an Ordinance as it was abundantly clear from facts and figures supplied by Revenue Officers, why did the Government take such a step at all? Was that action based on political considerations or something else?

Premier: It was based on facts which perhaps will not appeal to my hon. Friend. It was based on the facts disclosing hardships inflicted on the poor tenants.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: Will the hon. Premier be good enough to place those facts before the House since that has not been done so far in spite of repeated requests from the members of the Land Reforms Committee and other sections of the public?

Premier: If the hon. Member gives notice I shall give him the required information.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: My notice has been there for the last four months.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta: Is it not a fact that the Ordinance was not issued owing to the pressure of the landlord members of this House?

Mr. Speaker: No reflections, please.

Captain Ranjit Singh: Is it a fact that in a press conference the Minister for Public Works had stated that there was a difference of opinion in regard to this matter in the Cabinet? Did he also disclose the names of those Members of the Cabinet who were opposed to the issuing of this Ordinance?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member knows it better that the proceedings of the Cabinet meetings are not to be made public.

Sardar Swaran Singh: He is never serious in such matters.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal: You cannot take him seriously. (*Laughter*).

Pandit Durga Chanh Kaushish : Is it a fact that during the last eight years the number of ejectments for the last year is minimum ?

Mr. Speaker : That question has already been replied to.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : He has not replied to it.

Mr. Speaker : I cannot compel him to do so.

Premier : I want notice for that.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : I know you will take shelter behind this plea.

*1237. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) when it was noticed for the first time by the Government that punctuality in attending Government Offices was not usually observed, and there was slackness in the work in Government Offices and what steps were taken to put a stop to this state of affairs, and with what results ;

(*b*) whether any account is kept of the surprise visits by the higher authorities ; if so, the names of the Officers who have so far made such surprise visits together with the number of times they made such visits ?

The Hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(*a*) On 11th June 1949. Instructions were issued to all Heads of Departments in Simla, to take steps to ensure that all Officers and subordinates reached office in time and started work punctually at 10 A. M. These instructions were followed by further instructions to all Heads of Departments, Commissioners of Divisions, District and Sessions Judges and Deputy Commissioners in the Province asking them to pay surprise visits to the offices under their control at least once a month and, during these visits, to make test checks to see that there were no arrears of work with officials, that everybody was punctual in attendance and that the atmosphere in the office gave an impression of efficient work, disciplined conduct and general tidiness. They were also asked to issue, after paying these visits, necessary instructions for the removal of defects or irregularities revealed by the visits. These instructions appear to have had the desired effect in toning up the administrative machinery.

(*b*) Yes ; it is regretted that the amount of labour involved in the collection of this information will not be commonsurate with the benefit that may accrue.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the hon. Premier please tell us whether any officials were given warnings or some other punishments for breach of these instructions ? Are there any such cases on record ?

Premier : As the reply to this question will entail enquiry from all the District Authorities, the hon. Member will realise that it is manifestly not possible to supply this information without previous notice.

I. C. S. OFFICERS.

*1238. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of I. C. S. Officers, whose services have been transferred from the Province after the partition during the previous and present Ministry, respectively ;

(*b*) the number of I. C. S. Officers, who came to this Province for service after the partition ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(*a*) Five and four, respectively ;

(*b*) Thirty-eight.

RESERVATION OF VACANCIES IN THE P. C. S. FOR HARIJANS.

*1241. **Chaudhri Mehar Chand** : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the total number of posts in the cadre of P. C. S., (Executive Branch) at present ;

(*b*) the number of Harijans among them ;

(*c*) the total number of vacancies in the P. C. S. cadre that have been filled during the present and the last year separately ;

(*d*) the number of vacancies of P. C. S., that have been filled by nomination or by promotion from the Tahsildars and from the ministerial staff during the period referred to above ;

(*e*) the number of vacancies of P. C. S. that have been offered to Harijans ;

(*f*) whether the decision of Government to reserve 15 per cent. of services for Harijans applies to the recruitment of P. C. S. Officers ; if so, the number of vacancies of P. C. S, that have been or were reserved for Harijans during this and the last year ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(*a*) 187.

(*b*) Nil.

(*c*) and (*d*) No recruitment was made to the (?) P. C. S. (Executive Branch) in 1948. The P. C. S. Officers recruited to the Executive Branch in 1949, on various registers are as follows :—

(1) Register B (Competition) = 10.

(2) Register A-I (Tahsildars) = 12.

(3) Register A-II (Ministerial Government Servants) = 5.

(*e*) Out of six vacancies on Register A-II one has been earmarked for Harijans.

(*f*) Government have not yet taken a decision about the percentage to be reserved for Harijans, though the matter is under their active consideration. Accordingly the second part of the question does not arise.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Has the Government taken a decision that 15 per cent of services will be reserved for the Harijans ?

Premier : The Government has decided to give represtation to Harijans on the basis of the ratio of their population and with the information that is at present available their ratio comes to about 14.7 per cent. But the number of Sikh Harijans out of them is not known. In the absence of correct figures it can not be said with any amount of precision what percentage will be fixed each for Hindu and Sikh Harijans. However, the Government have decided to reserve 15 per cent of services for scheduled caste Hindus and Sikhs for the present.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the decision of the Government has been given effect to ; if not, from what date will it come into force ?

Premier : The Government has taken a decision and the instructions have been issued accordingly.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : May I know whether the recruitment of one Harijan from the ministerial staff out of the 27 P. C. S. Officers that have been recruited is on the basis of 15 per cent ?

Premier : The recruitment was to be made on the basis of competitive examination. I am not aware how the competitive examination was held before this Government came into power or if there were any Harijan candidates for the posts in the cadre of P. C. S. Moreover, this rule of 15 per cent was not applicable at that time. There is one register A-I (Tahsildars). But there are not so many Harijan Tahsildars that the vacancies of P. C. S., could be filled by promotion from them. There is another Register A-II (Ministerial Government Servants). We have not filled these posts out of the number of persons who were recommended but we called for the names of suitable Harijan candidates who could be promoted to these posts. Out of the six vacancies on Register A-II one has been earmarked for Harijans.

Captain Ranjit Singh : Was there any Harijan candidate for the posts in P. C. S. cadre that have been filled by nomination or promotion from the ministerial staff ?

Premier : I have already replied to this question.

Captain Ranjit Singh : Is it a fact that the hon. Premier has nominated his personal assistant as P. C. S. Officer ?

Premier : This is not against any Harijan vacancy.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : May I know if because a suitable candidate was not forthcoming from Tahsildars, the Government had to take recourse to recruitment from the ministerial staff. Is the Government prepared to make up the deficiency in the former category now ?

Premier: The Government had not taken a decision about the percentage to be reserved for Harijans then. The decision has been taken only now.

Master Gurbanta Singh: May I inform the hon. Premier that the Heads of Departments do not recommend the names of Harijans ?

Premier: If the hon Member can bring to my notice any particular instance, I shall make an enquiry. The Government have issued instructions to all Heads of Departments to recommend the names of suitable Harijan candidates for nomination as P. C. S. Officers.

Master Gurbanta Singh: I have already written two letters to the hon Premier bringing to his notice certain cases where the Heads of Departments did not recommend the names of Harijans. May I know if any enquiry was made by the Government ; if so, with what result ? Is it not a fact that instead of a Harijan the hon. Premier has nominated his own Personal Assistant as P. C. S. Officer ?

Mr. Speaker: It is not a relevant question.

Master Gurbanta Singh: May I know if because suitable candidates were not available from Tahsildars recruitment to P. C. S. was made from the ministerial staff ?

Premier: Suitable candidates were available from the ministerial staff. From the list of candidates that is submitted to the Government, the Government have to judge the suitability of each candidate.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is the Government prepared to make up the deficiency in the category of Tahsildars now if suitable candidates are available ?

Premier: The Government have now decided to reserve 15 percent of services for Harijans.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: The hon. Premier has stated that 15% of services have been reserved for Harijans. May I know what was the percentage before this new decision was taken and why the number of vacancies in the P. C. S. cadre have not been filled according to that percentage ?

Premier: The Government had not taken any decision before to reserve 15% of services for Harijans.

Captain Ranjit Singh: Is it not a fact that Mr. Tuli personal Assistant to the hon. Premier, was not originally recommended but when the hon. Premier took charge of his office he was nominated and consequently one Harijan had to be dropped ?

Mr: Speaker: Disallowed.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: Has the question of 15 per cent representation of Harijans in services been decided upon by the hon. Premier himself in his descretion or after consultation with the Advisory Board ?

Premier: It was so decided after consultation with the Advisory Board.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: May I know, why this decision has been made public, when the consideration of representation of other communities is still pending ?

Premier: We did so in defence to the wishes of hon. Members.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: Is it a fact that the Chief Secretary to Government has issued a circular explaining the Government position in relation to communal representation before the Advisory Board has taken any decisions ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bachan Singh): As during the last Sessions this Assembly recommended that services should be duly apportioned between the residents of the urban and the rural areas, advice was sought of the Legal Advisor to the Government of India. He replied that the draft constitution did not permit any such apportionment and this advice was made known in the circular.

COMMUNISTS.

***1256. Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha**: Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the total number of Communists confined in Jails at present ;

(*b*) the number of those confined in Jails for the last one and a half year ;

(*c*) the number of those who were granted family allowance ;

(*d*) the total number of Communists detained in their own villages ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar:

(*a*) 230, on 26th September 1949.

(*b*) 60, ,, ,,

(*c*) 35 upto 26th September 1949.

(*d*) 34 restricted to their villages or home districts.

Lala Bhagat Ram Chodha: Has any allowance been fixed for those persons who have been confined to their houses and are, therefore, forced to sit idle ?

Premier: If the hon. Member cites a definite case, I shall inquire into it.

Lala Bhagat Ram Chodha: Has an allowance been given in any case ?

Premier: Notice is required for such a question.

***1257. Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha**: Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

(*a*) the total number of Communists whose cases have so far been sent to the Tribunal for examination ;

(*b*) how many of them have been released so far ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(*a*) 268 ;

(*b*) 55.

MRS. SUDAGAR SINGH.

***1265. Dr. Sant Ram Seth, :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Mrs. Sudagar Singh was working as Deputy Superintendent, Women's Jail, Lahore, before partition ;

(*b*) whether it is also a fact that before partition she belonged to a permanent cadre of the department concerned ;

(*c*) whether it is also a fact that at the time of partition, the East Punjab Government undertook to absorb all the Government servants who opted for East Punjab ; if so, has she been provided with a post in the East Punjab ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(*a*) yes.

(*b*) yes.

(*c*) *First part.*—Yes.

Second part.—Yes. She was appointed Superintendent, Reformatory School, Delhi. On the shifting of the School to Hissar, she was ordered to take over charge of the Reformatory School at Hissar. For her refusal to comply with that order, she has heen suspended, pending a departmental inquiry.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : When was this offer made ?

Premier : I do not think the exact date will be of any avail.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Is it a fact that this offer relates to an institution which is situated within Men's Jail ?

Premier : The hon. Member knows where the institution is situated.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member might be knowing it, but the other hon. Members of the House do not know it.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Is it a fact that the place where Mrs. Saudagar Singh was asked to work is situated within the precincts of a men's jail ?

Premier : Yes.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Is it also a fact that to reach that institution one has to pass through men convicts ?

Premier : Yes.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Is it a fact that the going of a lady through a passage which passes in the neighbourhood of male convicts was something which was extremely undesirable ?

Premier : It will all depend on the facts of a particular case. My friend may be reminded that this lady was working as a Superintendent or a Deputy Superintendent in a men's jail in Delhi. She also applied and requested that she should be taken as an officer in a men's jail. Government have no reason to think that she observes purdha or any abnormal embarrassment could be caused to this lady while going through her duties in the jail and if Government thought it was necessary to make any arrangements which would have avoided inconvenience to her, it would not have hesitated to do that.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Is it not a fact that the Government has already taken a decision that ladies will not be recruited for executive jobs in men's jails ?

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Was Mrs. Saudagar Singh posted to men's jail in your time ?

Sardar Swaran Singh : I could not be guilty of such a foolish act. Is it not a fact that dangerous convicts are confined in the Hissar Jail ?

Premier : Government has no reason to apprehend that proper discipline is not being observed in Hissar Jail.

Sardar Swaran Singh : There is no question of observance of any discipline. What I want to know is whether dangerous convicts are confined in Hissar Jail or not and if it is so, is there not greater danger from them particularly to a lady ?

Premier : As I have said, proper discipline exists in all jails and there is no danger to any officer working there.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Would the Government have provided any escort to Mrs. Saudagar Singh ?

Premier : Necessary facilities would have been given.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Was she told before-hand that such and such facilities would be given to her ?

Premier : There is no question of telling her before-hand.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Is it not a fact that she was prepared to go to that institution subject to the condition that she were given executive powers in order to deal with undesirable convicts ?

Premier : You appear to be giving information.

Captain Ranjit Singh : Is it not a fact that some Jail Officials have been occasionally assaulted in this Jail in the past ?

Premier : Notice is required for this question.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Is it not a fact that Mrs. Saudagar Singh apprehended that it would be dangerous to her life if she was required to work at the job offered to her ? If so, was a reply sent that proper escort would be provided ?

Premier : Need I retort by saying again whether, when this lady offered to serve in men's Jail, she did not know that in that capacity she would be required to deal with criminals of the worst type ?

[Premier]

The only reason why she did not want to go to Hissar was that she wanted to linger on in Delhi for her private business.

Captain Ranjit Singh : Can the hon. Premier name any department in which discipline is being observed ?

Premier : Is the information required with respect to the period prior to the 13th April or after that date ?

Mr. Speaker : Order, order.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it not a fact that Mrs. Saudagar Singh made a representation to the previous Government but it was ignored and she was posted at Hissar Jail ?

Sardar Swaran Singh : This is absolutely wrong. (*Laughter*).

Premier : On a point of order, Sir. I have not delegated authority to answer this question on my behalf to my hon. Friend, Sardar Swaran Singh. Therefore it is up to me to answer this question and my reply is that orders for the transfer of this lady officer were made before the 13th April 1949.

PROSECUTION OF PERSONS IN GAZETTED AND SUBORDINATE SERVICES

***1268. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the total number of prosecutions of Gazetted Officers made by the Anti-Corruption Department since partition;

(*b*) the number of persons discharged out of them for want of legal evidence;

(*c*) the number of cases under investigation with names of those Gazetted Officers whose cases are pending in the Law Courts;

(*d*) the number of arrests made in the subordinate services;

(*e*) the total number of persons in subordinate services discharged together with the number of cases pending in the Law Courts;

(*f*) the number of cases of subordinate services, the Anti-Corruption Department has investigated ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(*a*) The Anti-Corruption Committee has prosecuted two Gazetted Officers whose cases are pending in the Courts of Law; while in 8 other cases enquiries have been / are being held either under the Public Servants (Inquries) Act, XXXVII 0f 1850, or under the Punjab Civil Services (Punishment and Appeal) Rules ;

(*b*) All this the case are still under consideration.

(*c*) 1st part 75.

2nd part 2.

It is not in the public interest to disclose names.

(*d*) 7. This is based on the information available at the Head-quarters of Government. It will involve considerable time and labour to get information from the Heads of Departments, Commissioners of Divisions, Deputy Commissioners.

(*e*) 1st part 8.

2nd part 9.

(*f*) 307.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: Is it not a fact that enquiry against five Deputy Commissioners of the East Punjab, on grounds of misconduct was stopped and they have been appointed permanent Deputy Commissioners in the cadre of Indian Administrative Service ?

Premier: There has been no case of stoppage of enquiry against any Deputy Commissioner.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: Is it not a fact that enquiry against some Deputy Commissioners who are related to the then Chief Secretary was stopped ?

Mr. Speaker: No reflection please.

RECOVERY OF ILLICIT EXCISE ARTICLES.

***1224. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib**: Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of weeks celeberated by the Excise and Police Department in connection with the recovery of illicit excise articles in the Province from 15th June, 1948, to 14th June, 1949, together with the amount of such recovered articles separately ;

(*b*) the amount of such articles recovered during the other ordinary days for the above-mentioned period excepting the above-mentioned weeks in Ambala and Simla districts separately ;

(*c*) the number of cases challaned by the police in connection with the recovery of the illicit excise articles of different kinds in whole of the Province during the above-mentioned period with special reference to Ambala and Simla districts ;

(*d*) the number of challans withdrawn by the police in the absence of substantial evidence during the above-mentioned period in the Province with special reference to Ambala and Simla districts ;

(*e*) the number of cases together with the number of accused convicted by the Courts for the above-mentioned excise offences during the above-mentioned period in the Province and with particular reference to Ambala and Simla districts ;

(*f*) the number of cases together with the number of convictions by the Courts for such excise offiences during the above-mentioned period in the Province with special reference to Ambala and Simla districts ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Professor Sher Singh): The reports from the districts of Hissar and Gurdaspur are still awaited. The information in respect of the rest of the Province is as under :—

(*a*) 32. The quantity of recovered articles is as under :—

(*i*) Liquor	...	3,708 bottles.
(*ii*) Lahan	...	30,986 seers.
(*iii*) Opium	...	22 seers and 10 chhataks.
(*iv*) Charas	...	7 chhataks and 2 tolas.

(*b*)

	Ambala District.	Simla District.
(*i*) Liquor	... 742 bottles	67 bottles.
(*ii*) Lahan	... 1522 seers.	...
(*iii*) Opium	... 343 seers and ... 11 chhataks.	one seer, one chhatak and one tola.
(*iv*) Charas	... one tola.	5 seers 7 chhataks and 4 tolas.
(*v*) Poppy-heads	... 9 seers.	...

(*c*) 5, 664. The number of such cases in Ambala and Simla districts is 636 and 73 respectively.

(*d*) 42. The number of such cases in Ambala and Simla districts is nil.

(*e*) Number of cases 4075.

Number of persons convicted 4706.

The information in respect of Ambala and Simla districts is :—

	Cases.	Number of persons convicted.
Ambala	... 406	... 620
Simla	... 64	... 70

(*f*) Number of cases disposed of ... 5064

Number of convictions. ... 4078

The information in respect of Ambala and Simla districts is :—

	Number of cases disposed of	Number of convictions.
Ambala	636	406
Simla	73	64

SMUGGLING OF OPIUM

***1266. Dr. Sant Ram Seth**: Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of raids for detection of opium smugglers near Chandi Garh (Kalka); if so, the quantity captured and the number of persons arrested ;

(b) whether it is a fact that any such cases against opium smugglers are pending in the Law Courts ; if so, when they are expected to be disposed of ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Professor Sher Singh) :

(a) Three raids have been made for detection of opium smugglers near Chandi Garh (Kalka) from the commencement of the current financial year. The quantity of opium captured weighs 10 maunds 12 seers and 2 chhataks and seven persons have been arrested.

(b) Two of the cases are pending in Law Courts, while the third is still under investigation. The disposal of cases is in the hands of courts.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : Sir, may I know in which language the hon. Member was speaking ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I spoke in Hindi, which is our national language. If the hon. Member cannot understand, it is not my fault.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : Order, please.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME

*1140. **Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(a) total mileage of roads constructed and repaired in each District of East Punjab, since 15th August, 1947 ;

(b) the programme of road construction for the next two years in all the Districts of the Province ?

The hon. Chaudhri Lehri Singh :

(a) The information is given as statement No. 1.†

(b) Due to the present financial strain on the Provincial and Central Budgets and the consequent drastic cut on the Post War Budget, it will not be possible to embark on the construction of any new roads during the next financial year other than those on which the work has already been commenced, the details of which are laid on the table.

SHAH NAHAR IN HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

*1143. **Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that Shah Nahar in Hoshiarpur District has been taken over by the Government ;

(b) whether the Government propose to take any step to increase the intake of water in this canal from Beas river ?

The hon. Chaudhri Lehri Singh :

(a) The Shah Nahar Canal in Hoshiarpur District has been taken over by the Irrigation Branch, P. W. D., from the control of Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur.

(b) The Government proposes to remodel the whole system and to improve and extend its water supply.

†Kept in the library.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

T. A. DRAWN BY M. L. As.

272. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state the T. A. drawn by each M. L. A. for attending Sessions of the Assembly during the period :—

(*i*) from October 1947 to November 1947 ;

(*ii*) from March 1948 to April 1948 ;

(*iii*) from October 1948 to November 1948 ; and

(*iv*) from March 1949 to April 1949, respectively ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

A statement containing the information asked for is placed on the table.†

STRIKE OF REVENUE PATWARIS IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

273. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Land Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(*a*) (*i*) the names of Revenue Patwaris who were recruited to fill up the post which fell vacant due to the strike of Revenue Patwaris in the year 1948, in the Amritsar District;

(*ii*) their previous vocation together with qualifications of each one of them ;

(*iii*) the year in which each of them passed the Revenue Patwar Examination ;

(*b*) whether any of the retired Revenue Patwaris were also recruited to fill up the vacancies, if so, the names of such Patwaris together with age of each one of them on 3rd September 1948 ;

(*c*) whether the Government proposes to re-instate Patwaris who were suspended or dismissed for their having taken part in the strike of 1948 ?

The hon. Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann :

(*a*) A statement is enclosed†.

(*b*) *1st Part.*—Yes.

2nd Part.—Shri Karam Chand, Shri Mansha Ram, Shri Sunder Das and Shri Mohan Lal. Their ages are not known, but all are physically fit to discharge their duties when appointed.

(*c*) Lists of such Patwaris are being prepared to re-employ them without detriment to the interests of their substitutes.

†Kept in the library.

PAYMENT OF SALARIES TO THE PEONS OF PATTI TAHSIL

274. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Land Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the peons of Tahsil Patti, District Amritsar, working in the Revenue or Rehabilitation Branch were not paid their salaries for the months of August and October 1948, uptil 31st July 1949. If so, the names of such peons together with the reasons for delay in the payment of their salaries;

(b) the action Government proposes to take against the Officer responsible for this delay ?

The hon. Sardar Joginder Singh Mann :

(a) *First part* : No.

Second part : Does not arise.

(b) Does not arise.

STRIKE BY THE REVENUE PATWARIS

275. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Land Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) the decision arrived at by the Government regarding the demand put up by the Revenue Patwaris before they went on strike in the year 1948;

(b) how many of the demands have been met already ?

The hon. Sardar Joginder Singh Mann :

(a) (i) The posts of Patwaris have been declared pensionable.

(ii) Their pay has been raised from Rs. 25—1—35/1—45 to Rs. 30—1—40/1—50.

(iii) In the interest of public service it was not considered desirable to waive the condition laid down in para 3.12 of the Punjab Land Records Manual and post them within a radius of ten miles from their homes.

(iv) As extra Patwaris are required all over the East Punjab, it was not considered practicable to absorb all of them in the districts in which lands had been allotted to their relatives.

(v) A rehabilitation allowance of Rs. 10 per mensem has been allowed to the Patwaris employed on Rehabilitation work.

(b) Three.

EXPENDITURE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT STAFF AT THE HARIKE FERRY, DISTRICT AMRITSAR

276. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Local-Self Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

(a) the average monthly expenditure of the establishment staff including the Toll Collector (Clerks) and the peon at the

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

Harike Ferry, District Amritsar, during 1948 and 1949 (from 1st January 1949 to 31st August 1949);

(*b*) the average income at the aforesaid ferry during the period mentioned above;

(*c*) the number of River Ferries other than the aforesaid Ferry mentioned in part (*a*) above under the direct control of the Government in District Amritsar;

(*d*) the average income and expenditure for running the administration of each of the Ferries [River Pattans] mentioned above during the period referred to in part (*a*) above ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

(*a*) (*i*) Average monthly expenditure of Harike Staff during 1948.	Rs.	987-8-0
(*ii*) Average monthly expenditure of Harike Staff from 1st January 1949 to 31st August 1949.	Rs.	791-0-0
(*b*) (*i*) Average monthly income from Harike Ferry during 1948.	Rs.	1,211-0-0
(*ii*) Average monthly income from Harike Ferry from 1st January 1949 to 31st August 1949.	Rs.	1,410-0-0

(*c*) Four (Gagrewal, Goindwal, Vairowal and Gharka-Chamba).

(*d*)

	Name of ferries.	Average monthly income.	Average monthly expenditure
		Rs.	Rs.
1.	Gagrewal.	75	1,300
2.	Vairowal.	30	1,500
3.	Goindwal.	102	3,200
4.	Gharka Chamba.	239	900

Average monthly income and expenditure from 1st January 1949 to 31st August 1949.

		Rs.	Rs.
1.	Gagrewal.	...	1,000
2.	Vairowal.	...	1,100
3.	Goindwal.	...	2,200
4.	Gharka Chamba.	237	900

REGISTRATION OF CASES AT THE DIFFERENT POLICE STATIONS.

277. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of the cases registered at the different police stations in each of the districts regarding murders, dacoities, burglaries and other cognisable crimes during the period from 1st January 1948 to 30th June 1948 and from 1st January 1949 to 30th June 1949 respectively ;

(*b*) the number of the cases traced in each district during the said period ;

(*c*) the number of the cases registered at each of the police stations of Amritsar district pertaining to similar crimes mentioned in part (*a*) above for the aforesaid period and the 1st half year of 1946 together with the number of the cases traced in each police station ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(*a*) and (*b*) A statement is laid on the table †.

(*c*) A statement is laid on the table†

CANCELLATION OF TRANSFER ORDER OF TEHSILDARS.

279. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Land Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that orders for the transfer of Sardar Harbans Singh, Tehsildar, Una, District Hoshiarpur were passed and he was posted at Patti Tehsil. District Amritsar, but the same were cancelled later on during the months of July or August, 1949 ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that after the cancellation of the orders referred to in part (*a*) above, Tehsildar, Jagraon was ordered to be transferred to Patti and that these orders too were cancelled ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that after the cancellation of the aforesaid orders, Tehsildar, Kulu was transferred to Patti ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that Tehsildar, Tarn Taran was ordered to be transferred to Fazilka Tehsil in the month of July or August, 1949, but this transfer order was later on cancelled and he was allowed to remain at Tarn Taran :

(*e*) if the answer, to parts (*a*), (*b*) and (*d*) above be in the affirmative, the reasons for cancelling the transfer orders and the steps Government proposes to take to avoid repetition of this process in future ?

The hon. Sardar Joginder Singh Mann :

(*a*) to (*d*) Yes.

(*e*) (*i*) For administrative reasons.

(*ii*) Does not arise.

---

†Kept in the Library.

REPRESENTATION BY S. BAHADUR SINGH AND OTHER VILLAGE HEADMEN OF VILLAGE BHITTE WIDH

280. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Land Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the decision of the Government regarding the representation submitted by S. Bahadur Singh and other village Headmen of village Bhitte Widh, Tehsil Ajnala, praying for their reinstatement as village Headmen to the Deputy Commissioner Amritsar, on 27th May 1949 ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that these headmen were dismissed in 1940-41 by the Collector, Amritsar, for having shown pro-congress activities at the time of a certain political conference ?

The hon. Sardar Joginder Singh Mann. :

(*a*) No representation has been received by the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar.

(*b*) According to the information in Government's possession, the reason for dismissal was their failure to perform their duties as village officials.

REPRESENTATION FOR THE EXPANSION OF A CANAL BRIDGE.

281. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that S. Hazara Singh Surpench and other members of the Panchayat of village, Sabrai, Tehsil Patti, Amritsar, submitted a representation to the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, with endorsement No. 362, dated 15th January 1949 praying for the expansion of a canal bridge through which motor lorry or a big bullock cart cannot pass, if so, the action taken by the Government in this matter ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the same representation was duly recommended for compliance to the Superintending Engineer, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar ; if so, the date of receipt of the representation in the office of the Superintending Engineer Canals, Amritsar.

(*c*) whether any reminders were issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, regarding the above referred to representation ; if so, give the dates together with the total number of such reminders ;

(*d*) the reasons for delay in the matter ?

The hon. Chaudhri Lehri Singh :

(*a*) Yes, the matter has been investigated.

(*b*) Yes. It was received in the office of Superintending Engineer, Upper Bari Doab Canal Circle on 21st January 1949 for disposal from Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar.

(*c*) Yes. One reminder was received on 11th June 1949.

(*d*) The matter as investigated by the Executive Engineer, Jandiala Division and he has informed the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, that the culvert in question is on a watercourse crossing and this road is a District Board Road and hence remodelling of the culvert is to be done by the District Board Authority.

282. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Land Revenue Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the kothi of Qazi Mahbub Alam of Jullundur City, which was occupied by Master Kabul Singh Gobindpuri, M. L. A , has since been ordered by the Government to be vacated ; if so, the date of passing this order ;

(*b*) the date when the orders were received by the District Authorities of Jullundur for compliance ;

(*c*) whether orders have been complied with if so, when :

(*d*) to whom this kothi has been allotted now ?

The hon. Sardar Joginder Singh Mann :

(*a*) The H. M. R, addressed a D. O. Letter, dated 9th July 1949, to Master Kabul Singh at his London address asking him to vacate the house immediately on his return to Jullundur. No other order by the Government has issued.

(*b*) This does not arise.

(*c*) The kothi is still in the possession of Master Kabul Singh and has not been allotted to anyone else.

(*d*) This does not arise.

CONFISCATION OF THE JAGIR OF S. BALWANT SINGH *alias* GURMUKH SINGH.

283. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Jagir of S. Balwant Singh *alias* Gurmukh Singh of village Malk Sukhi, district Ambala was confiscated for his being convicted in connection with the Civil Disobedience movement of 1930 and 1932 ;

(*b*) whether S. Balwant Singh, sent a representation to the Under Secretary (Political) of the Government for the restoration of jagir on 7th September, 1949 ; if so, the decision, if any, has been arrived at by the Government in the matter ?

The hon. Sardar Joginder Singh Mann :

(*a*) Yes. His jagir was acquired on account of his disloyalty to Government.

(*b*) First part. Yes.

Second part. The matter is under the consideration of Government.

WAITING ROOMS ATTACHED TO CRIMINAL COURTS.

284. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :–

(*a*) whether the Government is aware of the fact that there are no waiting rooms in any criminal courts of the discricts in the Province where police officers and other public come to give evidence in the courts as prosecuting witnesses ;

(*b*) whether Government intends to provide waiting rooms in the district courts for the purpose ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sain Sachar : (*a*) and (*b*) The matter is being enquired into and if it is found necessary the proposal to provide waiting rooms will be proceeded with.

PROFESSIONAL TAX.

285. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the total amount of professional tax assessed in each district by the District Boards during the year 1947-48 and 1948-49 respectively, in the Province ;

(*b*) the amount realized from the assessees of each district uptill 31st August, 1949 ;

(*c*) the pachotra given to the village headmen for the collection of professional tax in each district between 1st April, 1948, to 15th September, 1949 ;

(*d*) the professional tax estimated for 1949-50 for each district in the Province ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : The information asked for by the hon. Member is not yet ready. It will be cummincated to him when ready.

PROFESSIONAL TAX INSPECTORS.

286. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the names of the professional tax Inspectors or Officers under the service of District Boards of Amritsar and Gurdaspur on 31st August 1949, who assess and collect the tax ;

(*b*) the salary of each one of them ;

(*c*) the qualifications of each one of them ;

(*d*) the age of each one of them on 31st August 1949 ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : The requisite information is given in the attached statement.

1	2(a)	3	4 (b)	5 (c)	6 (d)	7
Name of the District Board	Name of the Profession tax Officer or Inspector	Designation	Salary per mensem	Qualifications	Age	Remarks
			Rs. a. p.			
Amritsar	S. Jowala Singh	Profession Tax Officer	123-14-0	Retired Tahsildar	60	The tax is assessed by the Profession Tax Officer and is recovered by him as well as by Tax Inspectors
	S. Teja Singh	Tax Inspector Patti	80-0-0	Matric	54½	
	S. Sohan Singh	Tax Inspector Tarn Taran	59-0-0	do	35	
	Jamadar Basant Singh	do	56-0-0	do	26	
	S. Dalip Singh	Tax Inspector Amritsar	59-0-0	Non-Matric	34	
	S. Kashmira Singh	Tax Inspector Ajnala	59-0-0	Matric	34	
Gurdaspur	Th. Gurdev Singh	Profession Tax Officer	168-0-0	B. A.	37½	

SCHOOLS

287. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state:—

(*a*) the number of primary, middle and high schools for boys and girls in the rural and urban areas of each Tehsil of Amritsar district under the management of (*a*) District Board, (*b*) Government, on 31st August, 1949, separately ;

(*b*) the number of the students in each school on 31st August 1949 ;

(*c*) the number of the teachers on 31st August, 1949;

(*d*) the total amount spent as salary and other contingencies in each school for the month of July, 1949 ?

The hon. Dr Gopi Chand Bhargawa :

(a), (b), (c) and (d). A statement showing the required information is laid on the table †.

†Kept in the library.

MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE.

288. Sardar Sajjan Singh: Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether the family maintenance allowances granted by the Government for the dependents of the detenus in the month of June 1949 were not actually paid uptil 3rd September 1949 in Hoshiarpur and other districts; if so, the reasons for delay in payments;

(*b*) the steps Government proposes to take for the speedy payments of these allowances ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(*a*) Yes. I am sorry to say this was due to some delay in the issue of letter of authority to the District Treasuries.

(*b*) Payments of these allowances are now being made speedily.

PERMITS FOR CEMENT.

289. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Civil Supplies, Electricity and Industries be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the names of the persons together with their full addresses who were granted permits for cement and were given the same in Patti Tahsil of Amritsar District, from 1st April 1949 to 15th September 1949 ;

(*b*) the dates when applications of each of the aforesaid persons were received in the office of the District Civil Supplies Officer, Amritsar ;

(*c*) the dates when the permits for cement were issued to each of the applicants ?

The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh :

(*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) A statement containing the desired information is laid on the table†.

ASSESSMENT OF PROFESSIONAL TAX.

290. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the total amount of professional tax assessed in each of the villages of Dialpur, Zail of Tahsil Patti, District Amritsar, for the year 1948-49 and 1949-50, separately ;

(*b*) the total amount of professional tax realized from each of these villages uptil 31st August 1949, separately ;

(*c*) the total amount of pachotra paid to each of the village headmen of these villages for the collection of the professional tax, separately ;

(*d*) the total amount of professional tax directly deposited in Treasury after its collection by each of the aforesaid headmen up till 31st August 1949, separately ;

---

†Kept in the library.

(*e*) whether it is a fact that none of the village headmen ever collected and directly deposited any amount of professional tax in the Treasury up till 31st August 1949 ;

(*f*) whether the amount of professional tax was collected by the Professional Tax Officer at the time of his visit ; if so, the reasons for giving the pachotra to the village headmen ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

(*a*) Statement attached †

(*b*) Statement attached †

(*c*) Statement attached †

(*d*) No payment was directly made into the Treasury. The Headman makes collections in the presence of tax Inspector and makes over the amonnt so collected to him for credit with the Treasury.

(*e*) Does not arise.

(*f*) Yes. The reason is that collection of Professional tax without the help of Headman is very difficult. The Headman not only helps in collection work but also in assessment.

S. JASWANT SINGH SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE AND OTHERS.

291. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the dates when S. Jaswant Singh, Ch. Ram Singh, S. Indar Singh and Bakhshi Ishar Das, Sub-Inspectors of Police were put incharge of Khalra, Waltoha, Bhikhi Wind and Patti, Police Stations of Amritsar District after 1st April 1949 ;

(*b*) the number of murders, decoities, burglaries and other criminal cases registered at each of the aforesaid Police Stations, respectively, since they took over charge uptil 15th September 1949 ;

(*c*) the number of the cases of murder, burgalaries, dacoities and other criminal cases traced at each of the Police Stations during the period mentioned in part (*a*) above ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(*a*)	S. I. Jaswant Singh	15-7-49.
	S. I. Ram Singh	10-6-49.
	S. I. Indar Singh	12-5-49.
	S. I. Ishar Das	10-6-49.

(*b*) and (*c*)

Police Station Khalra	Registered	Traced
Murders	..	..
Dacoities	..	..
Burglaries	17	3
Other cases	30	25

† Kept in the library.

[Premier]

	Registered	Traced
Police Station Voltoha		
Murders	4	3
Dacoities	..	..
Burglaries	21	14
Other cases	57	51
Police Station Bhiki Wind		
Murders	5	5
Dacoities	2	2
Burglaries	48	3
Other cases	35	12
Police Station Patti		
Murder	..	..
Dacoities	..	..
Burglaries	35	12
Other cases	48	40

POLICE QUARTERS, PATTI.

292. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to make arrangement of water pipes at the family quarters attached to the Police Station, Patti, District Amritsar, as promised during the budget session; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(*b*) whether any of the police employees are using the family quarters attached to Police Station, Patti, District Amritsar, if not, the reasons for the same ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(*a*) Necessary funds have been placed by the Superintending Engineer, P. W. D., Public Health Circle, East Punjab, at the disposal of the Executive Engineer, Amritsar, Public Health Division, Amritsar, for providing water supply arrangements at Police Station, Patti, *vide* his letter of the 15th September 1949. The work will be completed during the current financial year.

(*b*) No. The police employees will use the family quarters as soon as water supply arrangements are completed.

FERRIES.

293. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the names of ferries in each District of East Punjab which are under the direct control of the Government ;

(*b*) the names of the ferries which were auctioned on contract basis and the amount fixed and realised by Government during the year 1948-49 ;

(*c*) the names of the ferries which are directly run by

Government but were not auctioned during the year 1948-49 ;

(*d*) the income and the expenditure of each of the ferries mentioned in parts (*b*) and (*c*) respectively during the year 1948-49 ;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that auction system of these ferries has proved more beneficial than the system of controlling these ferries directly ?

The hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh : It is not considered advisable to give the required information in the interest of public security.

METALLED ROADS.

294. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the total length of metalled roads in the East Punjab on 15th August 1947, 15th August 1948 and on 15th September 1949, separately ?

The hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh : The information is as under :—

Total metalled length :

(*i*) on 15-8-1947	..	2068 miles	
(*ii*) on 15-8-1948	..	2143 miles	
(*iii*) on 15-9-1949	..	2197 miles	excluding length transferred to Himachal Pradesh.

VETERINARY HOSPITALS.

295. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the total number of Veterinary Hospitals in East Punjab on 15th August 1947 ;

(*b*) the total number of Veterinary Hospitals in East Punjab on 15th September 1949 ;

(*c*) districtwise number of Veterinary Hospitals in East Punjab on 31st March 1949 in rural and urban areas respectively ;

(*d*) districtwise population of rural and urban areas respectively on 31st March 1949 ;

(*e*) districtwise expenditure on medicines, instruments and other articles for Veterinary Hospitals, during the year 1948-49, in the rural and urban areas respectively ;

(*f*) districtwise expenditure on staff, establishment and senior departmental officers in the rural and urban areas respectively during the year 1948-49 ;

(*g*) the cost of repairs and the cost on the construction of buildings for these hospitals in each district during the year 1948-49 ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

(*a*) 168 Veterinary Hospitals.

(*b*) 195 Veterinary Hospitals.

[Minister for Development]

(c)	District	Total No. of Haspitals	Located in rural areas	Located in urban areas
1	Kangra	15	8	7
2	Hoshiarpur	13	7	6
3	Jullundur	14	10	4
4	Ludhiana	10	6	4
5	Ferozepore	17	13	4
6	Gurdaspur	12	9	3
7	Amritsar	19	15	4
8	Ambala	10	7	3
9	Karnal	16	13	3
10	Simla	3	2	1
11	Hissar	15	9	6
12	Rohtak	19	15	4
13	Gurgaon	15	8	7
		178	122	56

(*d*) It is not understood whether by the word 'population' the cattle population of the rural and urban areas are required. If so, the information is not readily available.

(*e*), (*f*) and (*g*) As the Verterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries in the Province are maintained by Local Bodies, the required information is not readily available with Government. It will have to be collected from the various District Boards and it is regretted that the time and labour involved in this connection will not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

CIVIL HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

296. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Finance Minister be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the total number of Civil Hospitals, District Board dispensaries, Municipal Committee dispensaries and Subsidiary dispensaries in the East Punjab on 15th August 1947 and 15th August 1949 respectively ;

(*b*) the total number of Civil Hospitals, District Board dispensaries, Municipal Committee dispensaries and Subsidiary dispensaries in rural and urban areas of each district of the Province on 15th August 1949 separately;

(*c*) the total rural and urban population in each district of the Province on 15th August 1949 separately;

(*d*) the total amount spent for the purchase and supply of medicines, instruments and other articales for the aforesaid different kinds of hospitals and dispensaries by Government and other institutions during the year 1948-49 ;

(*e*) the total amount spent for the repairs and buildings of the aforesaid hospitals and dispensaries by Government and other institutions during the year 1948-49 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (*a*) and (*b*) Statements 1st and 2nd are laid on the table†.

(*c*) The information in regard to the population in each district on 15th August 1949 is not available.

The mid year estimated figuresas they stood on 15th August 1948 are, however, shown in Statement (?)3rd enclosed.

(*d*) Seperate figures of expenditure incurred during the year 1948-49 towards the purchase and supply of medicines, instruments and other articles for Government hospitals are not available. The total contingent expenditure towards the maintenance of these hospitals excluding the pay of menials during the year 1948-49 amounted to Rs. 8,29,826. Similar information in respect of the local fund and other institutions is not available.

Grants-in-aid amounting to Rs. 8,56,974 were paid from the Provincial Revenues to the District Boards, Muncipal Committees and Co-operative Societies maintaining subsidized dispensaries and Missionary Societies, etc., during the year 1948-49 as detailed in Statement(?) 4th enclosed.

(*e*) The total amount spent during 1948-49 on new buildings of the Medical Department as well as on repairs was as follows :—

(*i*) On Major Works, Minor Works and additions and alterations to existing residential and non-residential buildings under heads „50 Civil Works and 81 Capital account (both) Post-war and "non-post-war." .. ... Rs. 9,13,672

(*ii*) On repairs (including special repairs). Rs. 1,66.352

GRANT OF FAMILY ALLOWANCE TO SHRIMATI RATTAN DEVI

297. Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether he has received any representation from Shrimati Rattan Devi, wife of Shri Karam Chand of village Rangarh, District Hoshiarpur, who has been detained under Section 3 of the East Punjab Public Safety Act;

(*b*) whether any family allowance has been sanctioned for Shrimati Rattan Devi;

† Kept in the Library.

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

(*c*) whether any amount of the allowance has been paid to her so far; if not, why not ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Rs. 92-11-0 up to 31st August 1949.

HUNGER STRIKE BY DETENUS

298. Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it has come to his knowledge that detenus confined in Yole Camp Jail and Ambala and Ludhiana Jails have recently resorted to hunger strike ;

(*b*) what are their demands ;

(*c*) how far is the Government prepared to accede to these demands ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and [*c*] A comparative statement showing the demands made by the Communist detenus and how far these demands have been acceded to by Government is attached. † From this statement it is clear that all the reasonable demands have been met.

REPRESENTATION BY JAIL WARDENS

299. Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether he has received any representation from the wardens of the Jullundur District Jail for the increment of their pay;

(*b*) whether the Inspector General of Prisons, East Punjab, has made recommendation for the increment ; if so, the result thereof ;

(*c*) whether any increment has recently been granted to the Police Constable as A class; if so, why similar increment has not been granted to the Jail Wardens ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes. It is being considered.

(*c*) *First part.*—Yes.

Second part.—It is being considered.

† Kept in the Library.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.

ORDINANCES.

Premier (The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar): As required by subsection (2) (*a*) of Section 88 of the Government India Act, 1935, I lay on the table Ordinances numbers 2-23 promulgated since the prorogation of the last session of the Assembly.

3 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (1st INSTALMENT) 1949-50.

Minister For Finance (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava): I present the supplementary Estimates (1st Instalment), 1949-50. Demands made therein are made on the recomendation of H. E. the Governor.

ELECTRICITY (EMERGENCY POWERS) BILL.

Minister For Industries (The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh: I present the report of the Select Committee on the East Punjab Electricity (Emergency Powers) Bill.

Minister For Industries (*Punjabi*): I move—

That the East Punjab Electricity (Emergency Powers) Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

Sir, I do not want to speak at very great length on this Select Committee report. As a matter of fact, it was to be presented to the House during the last Session, but that could not be done due to the prorogation of the Assembly. In this report which is now before the House, only three or four clauses of the original Bill, namely Clause 3 Clause 4 and clause 8, are sought to be amended and the amendments too are only of a formal nature. The purpose of these amendments is to benefit the consumer of electric energy.

In clause 3, it has been laid down that the Provincial Government may direct a supplier to instal such additional plant, as it may consider necessary. According to the orginal Electricity Act, the suppliers were at advantage under the clause 6 of that Act and the consumers were handicapped in the matter of getting new connections. Now they can get connections within a month of their sending the applications for this purpose. Previously the suppliers too were faced with a number of difficulties, their plants used to be incomplete and they could not spare any more energy. Besides this the necessary parts of the plants were not available during the war days. But now the circumstances are changed. The suppliers have therefore been asked to increase the output of electric energy by installing additional plants. To achieve this purpose the Government sometime back called a meeting of the suppiers of electricity and explained to them the facilities the Government would give them to cope with the increasing demand for electricity. I may point out that the Government has already decided to advance Rs. 8,00,000 to three electric supply companies to help them to purchase additional plants. Besides this, the applications for the grant of loans of some other companies are also under active consideration of the Government.

[Minister for Industries]

The consumer till now has had to face another difficulty also. The suppliers were empowered to discontinue the electric supply to a consumer after giving him a short notice and the consumer could not approach the Government in this behalf. According to the proposed amendment in the Bill the consumer can represent his case to the Government. I think the original Bill was defective in this respect and the Select Committee has rightly suggested this amendment. The consumer, under the amended clause, can place his objection to the notice served on him, before the Government for consideration.

Again Clause 8 of the original Bill imposed restrictions on the use of energy for the purpose of advertisements. According to that clause, even the Government could not have accepted them. The Select Committee has therefore empowered the Government to use energy in respect of certain specified areas and localities for the benefit of the public. With these words, I present these amendments for the consideration of the House.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Electricity (Emergency Powers) Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-clauses (2), (3) and (4)

Mr. Speaker : Question is -

That sub-clauses (2), (3) and (4) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 2 AND 3

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 4

Mr. Speaker : I would like to invite the attention of the Government to the wording of Clause 4 wherein it has been laid down that the Provincial Government may by order in writing authorise or require a supplier to discontinue the supply of energy to any consumer "who contravenes any direction issued under section (3)". The directions under clause 3 (1) and (3) are however meant for the supplier. How can then the consumer be held responsible for contravention of "any direction issued under section 3" ?

Minister For Industries (The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh) : Sir, if you refer to clause 4 (2), you will find that—

The supplier shall—

(i) before discontinuing or reducing the supply of energy under subsection (i), give the consumer not less than 48 hours' notice in writing giving reasons of his intention so to do ;

No doubt the directions are in the first instance given to the supplier but the supplier has to give reasons to the consumer before the supply is reduced or discontinued.

Mr. Speaker : If both the clauses are read together the wordings are not free from doubt. However, I leave it to the Government to look to this point.

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Narotam Singh) : I move—

That after the words 'Provincial Government' occuring in sub-clause (3), the following be added :—

'Which may pass thereon such orders as it deem fit'.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 5 TO 12.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 5 to 12 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 13.

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Narotam Singh) : I move—

That clause 13 be omitted.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 14 TO 20.

Parliamentary Secretary : I move—

That clauses 14 to 20 be renumbered as clauses 13 to 19.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 14 to 20 now renumbered as 13 to 19 stand part of the Bill

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 21.

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Narotam Singh) : I move—

That for the existing clause 21 now renumbered as 20, the following be substituted :—

Repeal and Saving of existing orders, etc.

'20. The East Punjab Electricity (Emergency Powers) Ordinance 1949, is hereby repealed but notwithstanding such repeal any orders made, notification issued, anything done, any action taken in exercise of the powers conferred upon the Central or Provincial Government, under Sub-Rule (2) of Rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules or under the Emergency Provisions (Continuance) Ordinance 1946, or under the Punjab Electricity (Emergency Powers) Act 1947, or under the Ordinance hereby repealed, in respect of matters specified in this Act and in force immediately before the commencement of this Act, shall be deemed to have been made, issued, done or taken in exercise of the powers conferred by or under this Act'.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-clause (1)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Industries (The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh) : I move—

That the East Punjab Electricity (Emergency Powers) Bill, as amended, be passed.

The motion was carried.

IMPROVED SEEDS AND SEEDLINGS BILL.

Minister for Development (The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) : I present the report of the Select Committee on the East Punjab Improved Seeds and Seedlings Bill.

Minister for Development : I move—

That the East Punjab Improved Seeds and Seedlings Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

Sir, certain minor changes have been suggested by the Select Committee and only a few words have been altered here and there. I need not make a long speech on these changes. I move that the Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Improved Seeds and Seedlings Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

The motion was carried.

NEW CLAUSE.

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) : I beg leave to move the following new clause :—

Repeal of East Punjab Ordinance V of 1949

'9. The East Punjab Improved Seeds and Seedlings Ordinance 1949, is hereby repealed but it shall not affect the previous operation of the said Ordinance and any order made, action taken or thing done, in the exercise of any powers conferred by or under the said Ordinance shall for all purposes be deemed to have been made, taken or done in the exercise of powers conferred by this Act.'

LEAVE WAS GRANTED.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 9 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-clauses (2) snd (3)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That sub-clauses (2) and (3) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 2

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) : I move—

That in part (iii) lines 4—7, for the words "or his agent....Punjab Tenancy Act", the words "as defined in the Punjab Tenancy Act and includes any person in actual occupation of such land or his agent" be substituted.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 3

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) : I move—

That in part (b), line 3, for the words "the other", the word "another" be substituted.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 4

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) : I move—

That proviso to sub-clause (1) be omitted.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 5 TO 8

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 5 to 8 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-clause (1)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Development (The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) : I move—

That the East Punjab Improved Seeds and Seedlings Bill, as amended, be passed.

The motion was carried.

RESTRICTION OF HABITUAL OFFENDERS (PUNJAB) (EAST PUNJAB AMENDMENT) BILL.

Premier (The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) : I introduce the Restriction of Habitual Offenders (Punjab) (East Punjab Amendment) Bill.

Premier (*Hindustani*) *:* I move—

That the Restriction of Habitual Offenders (Punjab) (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

This amending Bill seeks to make a few ordinary but necessary amendments in the Parent Act. The existing law at the most provides, under Section 110, Criminal Procedure Code, that a bad character shall be either bound down or his movements be restricted within a certain place. Experience has shown that unless the court is empowered to award these punishments together, the object of the law is not fulfilled. Since it is necessary and expedient that the movements of a habitual offender, who is a danger to the society, should be vigilantly watched by putting him under restriction, this bill is being moved to achieve the desired object effectively. The bill when passed would invest the courts with powers not only to bind an offender, but also, at the same time, to restrict his movements to a certain specified place. I hope the House will agree to this amendment being made in the Restriction of Habitual Offenders Act of 1918 without any further delay.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Restriction of Habitual Offenders (Punjab) (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-clause (2)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That sub-clause (2) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 2 to 4

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-clause (1)

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried

Premier: I move—

That the Restriction of Habitual Offenders (Punjab) (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

PUNJAB DISTRICT BOARDS (EAST PUNJAB AMENDMENT) BILL.

Minister for Labour (The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad): Sir, I beg to introduce the Punjab District Boards (East Punjab Amendment) Bill.

Minister (*Hindustani*): I move—

That the Punjab District Boards (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sir, this amending Bill is an ordinary piece of legislation as it seeks to replace the Ordinance which was promulgated to invest Government with the powers to fill by appointment, casual vacancies resulting not from the migration of Muslims to West Punjab, but from the death, resignation or removal of an elected member, Since under the present state of affairs it is not possible to hold by-elections, the intention of the Government is that this legislation should have force for two years only. By that time it would be possible to hold fresh election to Local Bodies and it is no wonder that these nominations will come to an end much earlier than the period stipulated in the Bill. With these words I commend this Bill to the House for enactment into law.

Mr. Speaker: May I know from the hon. Minister the number of seats which had originally been filled up by-election but had now fallen vacant as a result of deaths, resignations, etc., and which were intended to be filled up by nomination under this Ordinance? I would also like to know the emergency which required the promulgation of this Ordinance. I know that to promulgate Ordinances is the right of the Government. Still I would like to know the urgent circumstances under which this particular Ordinance was promulgated.

Premier (The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindustani*): Sir, while replying to the point raised by you, I would like to give the reasons which necessitated the placing of this amending Bill before the House. Two types of vacancies occurred in the District Boards, the one relates to those seats which fell vacant on account of the migration of the Muslim members of the Boards to Pakistan

[Premier]

and the other includes vacancies resulting from death, resignation or removal of elected members. So far as the vacancies caused by the migration of Muslim members is concerned, an amending Bill to fill these seats has already been placed on the Statute Book. In the latter case there arose a question as to how to fill these vacancies. The holding of elections was the only way out. The main difficulty in holding elections was that it was not possible to replace the Muslim voters who had gone to Pakistan by other voters. How to fill these seats was the main problem. We sought legal advice and we were told that under the Punjab District Boards Act 1883, as amended by Act X of 1948, Government had no authority to fill these seats. As the Assembly was not in session and as it was not the intention of the Government to take such steps as were not permitted by law, it was felt advisable to promulgate an Ordinance, which is now before the House, in the form of a Bill for replacing it on the Statute Book.

Mr. Speaker : I quite realise that vacancies of this kind occured 2 years ago and I also know that there was no Ordinance of this nature during the last 2 years but on the 21st of June an Ordinance was issued so that all these seats might be filled up by nomination. I admit, as I have said before, that the Government has the right to bring in Ordinances and the Government has brought in not less than 23 Ordinances during the last six months. I am not concerned with it. The Government has the confidence of the House and it can do whatever it thinks fit, but being the custodian of the rights and privileges of this House, it is my duty to see that there is no encroachment on these rights. I feel that in this particular case the Government could easily have waited for a few months more and initiated this measure in this House. By promulgating Ordinances for such matters I think we would not be leaving desirable precedents. Ordinances as I understand should be promulgated for very important and urgent matters as the control of evacuee property and things connected with the refugee problems, etc., I had a feeling on this point and have expressed it to the House. (*Loud Applause*).

Sardar Swaran Singh : Sir, on behalf of the House I have to express gratefulness to you.

Mr. Speaker : There can be no speech on whatever I have said.

Premier : Sir, the hon. Member can exercise the privilege where it exists. He cannot make a speech at this stage.

Mr. Speaker : Yes, the hon. Member will have a right to speak when I have put the motion before the House. He should wait for a few minutes.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved —

That the Punjab District Boards (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sardar Swaran Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural) : Sir, so far as the principle of the Bill is concerned it is before the House and I do not propose to take much time on the question as to whether such a provision should or should not be placed on the Statute Book.

But before I come to the Bill itself, there is a very important aspect of the whole case about which the House is entitled to know the Government position. As was remarked by you. Sir, the House is entitled to know as to what had happened after the termination of the last Buget Session of the Assembly and the date of the promulgation of the Ordinance which prompted the executive to bring this Ordinance. Sir, so far as my information goes no new circumstances had arisen after the Budget Session and up to the date of the promulgation of the Ordinance which created an emergency which could be availed of by the executive to promulgate an Ordinance of this character. Sir, I am aware of the constitutional procedure that the Governor is only a signing machine. Any proposal in the form of an Ordinance has to be agreed to by His Excellency the Governor. Therefore, the responsibility of putting forward an Ordinance is not on the executive head of the province but upon the Government and this House is entitled to know as to what had happened after the last Session and up to the date of the promulgation of the Ordinance which created an emergency, to resort to the extra-ordinary power of legislating by an Ordinance. In a democratic set-up this power is to be resorted to in very exceptional circumstances and whenever any Ordinance is to be placed on the Statute Book permanently and whenever the Government comes to this honourable House with a measure to place an Ordinance on the Statute Book in that form, the House is perfectly justified to know as to what was in the mind of the executive when it promulgated that Ordinance. So far as nomination of members to the District Boards or other Local Bodies was concerned, I am pretty certitn that it was a very petty affiair which could wait. Heavens would not have fallen if that Ordinance was not promulgated. Sir, with your permission I would like to bring to your notice the other circumstances indicating that this power by the executive has been more often abused during the last few months.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Last two years.

Mr. Speaker: So far as abusing the power of issuing Ordinances is concerned there is same other remedy.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Sir, so far as the present Ordinance is concerned this House is entitled to know as to what was the emergency which prompted the executive to bring forward this Ordinance and it is very essential that this House should know so that there should be some check upon the executive to resort to this extra-ordinary power of legislation. In a democratic set-up all legislative measures must put on the Statute Book by the Legislative Assembly and it is only in very exceptional circumstances that power of Ordinance-making is to be resorted to. After all so far as the present Bill is concerned and which already exists in the form of an Ordinance, it covers only a few vacancies which existed since the 15th of August till the date of the promulgation of the Ordinance. Surely we are entitled to know as to what was the emergency for filling up these vacancies due to which the Government could not wait till the present session of the Assembly and felt the necessity of issuing an Ordinance ? It is not a case where the Government can say that the quorum of the District Boards was not complete and that the Municipal Committees and the DistrictBoards were not functioning. I know it for a fact that all the

[Sardar Swaran Singh]

District Boards and the Municipal Committees were functioning properly. To usurp the power of election is not a normal procedure ; at any rate it is a great departure from the rule which is prevalent for the constitution of all these bodies. Therefore, whether we examine it from the point of view of exigency or whether we look at it from the point of view of serious departure from the rule of election, which should be the rule for the constitution of these Local Bodies, there was no justification for promulgating an Ordinance of this character.

So far as the machinery for elections is concerned there may be difficulties in the way of the Government but I feel that the time has now come when we should be prepared to face the election. There is no use of keeping the Local Bodies running by resorting to nominations. In the case of those people who had migrated to Pakistan and have thus vacated their seats, there may be some justification in filling those seats by nomination, but seats which have been vacated either by death or resignation of persons who held elected seats, there does not appear to be any justification for resorting to nomination in order to fill these vacancies. My contention is that so far as seats which were held by elected members are concerned, there is no reason why they should not be filled up by election. When we can fill seats of this honourable House by means of election, if they are vacated, there is no reason why seats of the District Boards should also not be filled up by election. Therefore, with these remarks I oppose the Bill.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Women, urban) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, there can not be two opinions about the fact that the Bill that is now under consideration is repugnant to the basic principles of democracy. It is also true that there were no special or extaordinary circumstances justifying the necessity of investing the Government with the proposed powers of nomination. It is also true that in spite of our opposition to this Bill, it will be carried through by a formal parade of 'Ayes' and 'Noes'.

Mr. Speaker : It is not for me to decide whether this Bill be passed or not. It is for you to say whether you agree to its passage or not.

Shrimati Sita Devi : You will make us say 'Yes' or 'No'.

Mr Speaker : This is a reflection on the Chair.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Now that this measure has been introduced, I would like an assurance from the Government that the powers proposed to be taken will not be misused. What I want to emphasise is that while making nominations to the District Boards village people should not be ignored, since these bodies were created and intended primarily to give them a share in local administration. To deny representation to rural people would be tantamount to nullifying the very object for which these bodies were constituted. The District Boards are primarily meant for rural people just as Municipalities are meant for urban people. I have to point out with regret that so far this principle has been respected more in its breach than in its observance. The nominations that have been made since the partition do not reflect this

principle. Rural people have been totally ignored so far. Some of the persons who have been appointed to these bodies by nomination, have never had in their lives anything to do with villages. Not to speak of there having passed any part of their lives in villages, even their ancestors had perhaps never seen the villages being habitually urbanites. I am saying this from my personal knowledge about the nominations made to the District Board of District Jullundur in April last. Some of the members who were nominated to this body were urbanites. Sir, what I want to emphasise is that in the past, proper use has not been made of the powers of nomination. I would urge that in future at least, the rights of people living in villages should not be ignored, so far as their representation in District Board is concerned. I am sure Government will succeed in getting these powers on the plea of 'emergency' or 'abnormal state of affairs' or 'special circumstances' and thus deprive the voters of their right. It is for this reason that I am stressing the need of giving adequate representation to village people. There are some seats which have become vacant owing to the migration of Muslims. These seats should be filled by appointing Hindu and Sikh refugees. There have been complaints in the past about the filling of these seats by local persons. I have no wish to go into the reasons for which this was done, though I would request that in future all such seats should be filled by appointing suitable refugees. With these words, I resume my seat.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal (Hansi, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I too would like to say a few words about this Bill. I hope you will remember, Sir, how in the United Punjab Assembly the District Boards Amendment Bill which provided for nomination of members was opposed by the then opposition party....I mean the Congress Party which is in power to-day. I do not think, Sir, you have forgotten the heat and fury which characterised the debate on nomination clause of that Bill, and with what vehemence that provision was opposed by the Congress Party at that time.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Are you not a member of that party ?

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Unfortunately, what Sardar Ji has said, is quite true. But truth remains for ever a truth in spite of changes in the principles of men and parties. Everybody at that time was loud in asserting that conditions in our country were quite fit for democratic method of election and that the executive should not be allowed to encroach on the rights of voters. A number of speeches were delivered in this strain, even though the proposal was to fill by nomination only a few seats which had become vacant in a few District Boards here and there, owing to resignation or death of the members. The object of resorting to the method of nomination was just to give opportunity to those persons who did not like to seek election but who were nevertheless quite fit. What do we find here ? Nominations have been made indiscriminately. In my own District, out of the forty Members of the District Board, five seats are reserved for officials. Eleven seats were held by Muslims who have left. These have been filled by nomination. This brought the number of nominated members to 16. Seven more vacancies occurred owing to

[Chaudhri Suraj Mal]

the death and resignation of some members and conviction of some others in criminal cases. These were also filled by nomination. This has brought the number of nominated members to 23.

The hon. Minister has remarked that the time is not propitious for holding fresh elections in the existing state of affairs as the voters' lists have yet to be prepared. But he should know that new lists of voters to the Local Bodies have already been prepared and that the elections to Local Bodies can easily be possible when the voters' lists are ready. My Friend Sardar Swaran Singh has rightly drawn the attention of the Government to the fact that the vacancies resulting from death of an elected member are lying unfilled for the last 5 years and it may still take long, *i. e.*, three or four years to fill these casual vacancies. I wonder why the Government is conveniently ignoring the urgent need of filling these vacancies as, according to it, it does not perhaps matter much if the Ilaqa remains unrepresented for long and the number of vacancies may go on multiplying. It appears that the Government intends to force its decision upon the people without primarily having any regard for their feelings. I will suggest that the present Government should not adhere to the old principle of nomination which it had condemned unreservedly before. The by-elections can be conveniently held and thus there appears to be no justification in bringing forward this Bill in order to invest Government with the power to fill these vacancies by appointments. The Government should take cognisance of the fact that it should try to avoid creating impression upon the public that the present Ministry means to benefit its own kith and kin by this measure. The previous Ministry was accused of such a motive when it nominated local persons to the Local Bodies instead of giving representation to refugees who had come from West Punjab. This Government too wants to tread on the same path and follow the very wrong principle. If this Bill is passed it will not be welcomed as there will be a misuse of authority to the detriment of deserving persons who would be deprived of their due rights by constitutional methods. Under these cirucmstances, it seems desirable that the Government should not bring forward this Bill.

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bachan Singh) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, it appears that the hon. Members are probably labouring under some misapprehension. I must make it clear that the Government is not taking any undemocratic step but instead, it considers essential to hold elections under adult franchise. I would like to focus the attention of all hon. Members on this fact that before the partition the Muslim population in this part of East Punjab was 34 per cent who migrated on account of civil disturbances that broke in the year 1947. In the absence of these people, the Government has to consider the giving of the right of vote to the people who have come from the West Punjab. The new voters' lists will have to be prepared in order to achieve this end. The procedure for regularising this matter would obviously take much time. The old lists date back to the years 1937, 1938 and 1939 and many people have died since then while many have shifted to some other places. Moreover, we have to see the plain fact that the people coming from the West Punjab should have the right to exercise their votes. In the existing

state of affairs they will naturally be denied of these rights with the result that it will not be possible to hold elections in a democratic way. These are the difficulties which have to be solved before holding these elections. It is, therefore, desirable for the purpose of saving the Government from such difficulties at this stage, to lodge the power with the Government to fill these vacancies by appointment. I may also submit that this is not a new Bill but it is already in force by means of an Ordinance. Now the object of this Bill is merely to replace the said Ordinance by an Act of the Legislature. The Ordinances promulgated under Section 88 of the Government of India Act 1935, cease to operate after the expiry of six weeks from the re-assembly of Legislature. The present Bill is accordingly introduced for continuing in force the provisions of the Ordinance by permanent legislation. It cannot be said by any stretch of imagination that a new Bill is going to be passed. The Government does not at all favour the idea of snatching away the right of vote from the people but instead is keenly desirous that everybody should have his right of vote and should exercise it with full freedom without any let or hindrance. The Indian Government has agreed to the principle of conferring the right of vote to every man and women of the age of 21. In face of this decision to have adult franchise, it should be realised what a tremendous task it would mean. With our present population and with the information at our disposal based on the enrolment of voters in the past, it is evident that our electoral rolls will not comprise all voters. This Bill is accordingly introduced with the ostensible reason of enabling every adult to exercise his right of vote. The Government is of the view that there is little reason to hold by-election in the present state of affairs as the purpose will be largely unfulfilled without giving a fair and just deal to all persons.

The question of election to legislatures is quite different. In the legislature the various programmes of the different parties are to be put through and it is for the people to say whether they like the policy of a particular party or not. The District Boards have nothing to do with the party programmes. They are essentially executive bodies whose main function is to look to the every-day comforts of the people. They have to maintain roads, schools, veterinary and other hospitals, etc., and all this work does not necessitate evolving a policy. Here we have only to see that work is performed in such a manner that we can bring about the greatest possible comfort and benefit to our people. No doubt some of my hon. Friends will say that in order to achieve greater good of our people we must have recourse to by-election. But in all seriousness I ask whether such a step on our part will not be very unfair to our brethren who have come from the West Punjab. New lists of the voters have not yet been prepared and it will certainly be most improper to hold an election on the basis of the old lists. I am sure the idea of giving representation only to the old residents of East Punjab will not find favour with you. In these circumstances I feel that perhaps all opposition to this Bill is owing to a misunderstanding. Hon. Members should rest assured that this Government has no sinister designs of robbing

4 p. m.

[Parliamentary Secretary]

the people of their rights, on the other hand it earnestly desires that they should be in the enjoyment of the privileges which are due to them.

The measure which is before the hon. Members is here only as a matter of formality. When the Assembly is not in Session, the Governor or for that matter the Government has sometimes to take immediate action by promulgating an Ordinance and that Ordinance has got to be ratified by this House as otherwise it lapses and, therefore, ceases to operate. It is for such a purpose that this Bill has been introduced in this House. But if it is said that this measure is against democratic principles my only reply is that such principles cannot be practised during a transitional period through which we are passing. Democratic principles can be applied only during normal times and till such times come into existence all talk of such principles is nothing short of a fraud perpetrated on democracy itself. I am certainly at one with the hon. Members when they say that widest possible franchise be given to the people and big lists of voters prepared so that we are in a position to return to the District Boards and other such bodies our true representatives who are capable of rendering the right type of service to our people. I would urge the Government that it should take steps in this direction without delay. Of course I am in a possition to say that the Government is already keen to see that the holding of election should be made possible at the earliest possible time. I know that when this Government undertakes legislation with regard to the District Board and the Municipal Acts and gives them an up-to-date shape every body in this Province will be pleased with this progressive Government. At that time all doubts and misunderstandings of my friends will be dispelled. With these words I submit that this Bill be passed by the House.

Minister for Labour (Shri Prithvi Singh Azad) (*Hindustani*): Sir, Many of my hon. Friends have opposed the introduction of this Bill and through you, I wish to invite their attention to a principle which they appear to have altogether lost sight of. I wish to remind these Friends that it was during the last Session of the Assembly that a right similar to the one in question was granted in the case of Municipal Committees where seats had fallen vacant owing to resignation, death and other causes. I say if we give such a right to the residents of these areas of Municipalities, will it not be an act of injustice on our part if we deprive the people living in the jurisdiction of a District Board to avail of the services of their representatives ? One of my hon. Friends was pleased to remark what after all was the necessity of promulgating an Ordinance in this connection and introducing this Bill in the House. I want totell him that the Government is doing all this to enact a law, by virtue of which due right of representation may be given to the residents of the areas of District Boards where seats have fallen vacant due to evacution of Muslims or some other reasons. After all why should these people not have at their disposal the services of their representatives ? Another hon. Friend, I mean Chaudhri Suraj Mal, said that the Congress Government should have had the wisdom of holding election. It appears as if he was attempting to create grave doubts into the

minds of our people against our great political organisation and was not very keen to stress his argument concerning elections. I can without any fear of contradiction tell him that Government is certainly not afraid of holding elections to the District Boards and other Local Bodies. Fear can only haunt the minds of those who have to take part in those elections. Government is taking its stand on a principle and that principle is that a fair election is not possible in the presence of old lists and rules and the true representatives of the people cannot be returned for seats which are at present vacant. An hon. Friend who spoke earlier was right when he said that if the right had been given to people where they formed 35 per cent. of the population there was no reason why it should be denied at places where the unfortunate refugees formed 50 per cent. of the population and that the local people who were sure to succeed in the elections if held now would not be in a position to represent them. If elections are held under the existing law, persons elected will not be true representatives of the people. Therefore, the difficulty with which the Government is faced, and to which I referred at the time of presenting the Bill, is that under the existing rules, the electoral rolls which exist do not permit of the real representatives of public being elected.

If you refer to Rule 6 of the District Board Rules which were framed in 1933, you will find the qualification necessary for a person being enrolled as a votor. Under these rules lambardars and those paying a certain amount of tax were given the right of the vote. The Government wishes to widen the franchise. The Constituent Assembly of India has provided for adult franchise for elections to Provincial Houses. In order that the persons elected to Local Bodies may be real representatives of the people, we desire to enforce adult franchise. Till votors' lists are prepared on that basis, it would not be advisable to hold bye-elections for seats falling vacant. It is, therefore, desired that till the necessary conditions are brought about, the seats falling vacant on account of death or resignation of members, should be filled by nomination of suitable persons. As I have already submitted, the apprehension expressed by my hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal that these powers are being permanently acquired by the Government is misfounded. It has been stated by the Government that this measure was necessary for two years only. I can assure you on the basis of decisions recently arrived at that the Government has decided to completely do away with the system of nomination. But time is required to bring about the necessary conditions for that purpose. Till the proper conditions exist, it is necessary to nominate persons in certain cases.

Shrimati Sita Devi: May I know form the hon. Minister when the lists would be ready? In the case of certain District Boards, elections have not been held for the last twelve years. How long will it take for the required conditions to be brought about?

Minister for Labour: Through you, Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform the hon. Member that the Government wishes to change the qualifications necessary for becoming voters for elections to District Boards. The House will be called upon to express its opinion about the qualifications on the basis of which voters' lists would be prepared. If the lists for elections to Provincial Assembly with some

[Minister for Labour]

modifications are adopted for elections to District Boards, it will not take years but only a few months. With these words, I move that the Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab District Boards (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The Bill will now be considered clause by clause.

CLAUSES 2 AND 3.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Labour : I move—

That the Punjab District Boards (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab District Boards (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be passed.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal (Hansi, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Mr. Speaker, the hon. Minister said that he wished to bring about those conditions which that great organisation, the Indian National Congress..........

Mr. Speaker : I would remind the hon. Member that this is the third reading of the Bill. The hon. Member need not reply to the points that have been raised. He will please confine himself to the arguments which can be adduced at the third reading stage.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Sir, what I wish to submit is that this Bill will be passed but when it is enforced and action is taken under its provisions, the Government should see that whenever a seat falls vacant on account of dismissal, death or resignation of a member, the person nominated to fill that seat should belong to the same place to which the former member belonged. There have been cases where on the death of a member of a District Board, the Government nominated a person belonging to a different place, merely because they wanted to favour him. When the member representing Sirsa died, his place was filled by nominating a person belonging to Fateh Abad. In such cases, the person who is nominated is not even acquainted with the condition of people, whom

he is supposed to represent. If these seats must be filled by nomination, it should be seen that only those persons are nominated who belong to the place which they have to represent.

Another thing which I wish to point out is that at the time of making nominations, the recommendations made by Deputy Commissioners or Commissioners, who are acquainted with the local conditions, should not be ignored. It has been noticed that sometimes the Government has acted under other influences and has ignored the suggestions of district authorities. I beg to submit that those recommendations should not be altered or ignored.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha (Jnllundur, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I have stood up only to support my hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal. The nominations to the District Boards should be made out of local persons and on the recommendation of the local officials such as Deputy Commissioners and even Tehsildars. In this connection, I may point out to the hon. Minister that the files regarding Nawan Shaihar and Garhdiwala nominations sent to the Government by the local officers have perhaps lost their way and are not traceable. The hon. Minister should kindly call for those files for necessary action thereon.

Minister for Labour. (The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I am thankful to my hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal for the suggestions he has put forward. I would, however, like to submit for the information of the House that the Government has altogether changed the old system of nominations. In future the persons to be nominated shall not be required to fulfil irksome conditions which have been there uptill now. I am glad to inform the House that our sisters whose representatives are sitting opposite to me and who have so far been ignored in the matter of nominations will now be given special representation on the Local Bodies. The Government has arrived at this decision not because I am intimidated by the hon. Sisters present here but because we feel that this section of the people should also get represention in the matter of such nominations.

Speaker: Have you reserved certain seats for ladies ?

Minister: Yes.

Speaker: Would it not be discriminations.

Minister: It is not reservation of that kind. The Government only sees that all sections of the people get due representation on the Local Bodies and has laid down certain rules to that effect. It shall be kept in view that the persons who can best serve the intrests of the public, are nominated for instance, a vetern educationist a doctor of repute or an engineer should be nominated for making use of his advice. The District Officers have accordingly been instructed.

Again the hon. Chaudhri Suraj Mal has complained that all nominations for the vacancies should be made out of persons residing in that particular area. Keeping in view this objection, the Government, sometime back, issued an order to the officers concerned that the nomination to the vacancies should made out of people

[Minister]

living in the area from where the vacancies are caused. A vacancy from the Samrala Tahsil for instance, should not be filled in by a person belonging to Jagraon Tahsil. The Government has thus taken necessary steps to meet all possible demands. All the same I assure the House that the Government will do its best to remove the short comings, if there be any.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab District Boards (East Punjub Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

PUNJAB MUNICIPAL (EAST PUNJAB THIRD (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Minister For Labour (The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad) : Sir, I introduce the Punjab Municipal (East Punjab Third Amendment) Bill.

Minister for Labour : I move—

That the Punjab Municipal (East Punjab Third Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried

Mr. Speaker : The House will how consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSES 2 TO 6.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 2 to 6 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Labour : I move—

That the Punjab Municipal (East Punjab Third Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p. m. on Tuesday, 11th October 1949.

East Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

11TH OCTOBER 1949

Vol. IV—No. 2

OFFICIAL REPORT

GOVT. PUNJAB

CONTENTS

Tuesday, 11th October 1949

Printed at O. K. Printing Press, Simla 1950

Price Rs. 2-0-0

EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Fourth Session of the 1st East Punjab Legislative Assembly
Tuesday, 11th October 1949.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 P. M. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

REMOVAL OF NON-OFFICIAL CHAIRMEN OF REGIONAL TRANSPORT AUTHORITIES.

***1145. Shri Virendra** : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to remove Non-Official Chairmen of Regional Transport Authorities and to appoint Commissioners as Chairmen of these bodies in their place ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Government have not yet made any such decision.

NATIONALIZATION OF MOTOR TRANSPORT INDUSTRY.

***1185. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta** : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government intends to nationalize Motor Transport Industry in the year 1950 by taking over some motor companies in some districts of the Province ?

The hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Government have not yet taken a final decision relating to the question of nationalization of motor transport. It is hoped that a decision will be reached in the near future.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Is the scheme of Nationalization of transport being dropped on account of Economy drive ?

Minister : There is no question of dropping it. It is under the consideration of the Government.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the scheme will be useful to the Government or not ?

Minister : It will of course, be useful.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : What is the amount of money that will have to be spent in the initial stages of Nalionalization ?

Minister : I require notice for this question.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it a fact that Government would be earning about $1\frac{1}{2}$ crores from Nationalization of Transport ?

Mr. Speaker : Is the report out ?

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : An interim report was sent.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : May I point out to the Government that instead of laying hands on those men belonging to the rural areas they should first nationalize those professions which affect the big Mill owners and 'Lalas' ?

Mr. Speaker : I would ask the hon. Member not to use such language in respect of any community.

Chaudri Suraj Mal : I am glad that he is going out of the fold of 'Lalas' (*Laughter.*)

NEW CAPITAL AT CHANDIGARH.

***1270. Dr. Sant Ram Seth** : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the East Punjab Government has abandoned the idea of building its Capital in Chandigarh ; if so, why, if not, the period within which it is expected to be built ?

The hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh : The Government have not altered the decision to build the new Capital at Chandigarh. In view of the financial stringency and the uncertain effect of rupee devaluation for commodities being obtained from Dollar areas, the undertaking of the work of the construction of the Capital will be delayed to some extent.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : Is it a fact that the survey of the area at Chandigarh has been carried out and a large quantity of the building material is lying at the site ?

Minister : Yes, the survey has been carried out and the building material was collected. But this is now being used for building townships.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is the Government aware of the fact that a good deal of resentment prevailed among the Refugees and also other people because of the uncertainty of arriving at a definite decision with regard to the building of the new Capital ?

Minister : The Government have not received any representation expressing such resentment but, of course, there have been certain comments in the Press.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it a fact that a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs has already been spent in connection with the building of the proposed Capital ?

Minister : I require notice for this.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : May I know whether any building has been erected at the Capital site so far ?

Minister : So far no building has been constructed there, and the building material will be taken away to the proposed sites for townships to be utilized over there.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : May I know the amount that is being spent on transport in bringing and taking away the building material ?

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Are the Government aware of the fact that a large quantity of coal stocked at Chandigarh is being spoiled by rains ?

Premier : Coal and other building material was stocked at Chandigarh with a view to start building the proposed Capital, but the situation changed rapidly. On account of financial stringency we were unable to get any help from the Central Government in this matter. We have no money of our own. So under these circumstances we were obliged to postpone the building work.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know if the Government have arrived at a decision with regard to the building of the neighouring township ?

Premier : Government had decided to do so but there are some difficulties in the way.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Should we take it that the scheme of building a neighbouring township has been dropped ?

Minister : It has been postponed.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: Should we take it to mean that the Government will stay in Simla for an unlimited period ?

Premier : It has been stated that the scheme has only been postponed for the time being.

Sardar Partap Singh : Are the Government aware of the resentment that prevails among 35 thousand people of the area where the Capital is proposed to be built ? The land that is going to be taken up is good and fertile land. When ever the Government take a decision on the building of the new Capital will the Government also consider this aspect of the question ?

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : It will be your Government that will decide this question now.

Premier : The decision was arrived at earlier. And when the financial position begins to show signs of improvement the matter will be placed before the Congress Assembly Party for consideration.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know if the Government received any unofficial proposal to the effect that each person desirous of building a residence in the Capital, would be prepared to contribute rupees one thousand for meeting the initial expenditure provided the Government was ready to go ahead with New Capital Scheme ?

Premier : The hon. Member would perhaps remember that sometime ago I had made an appeal to the public on the subject that if each applicant paid rupees one thousand with his application, then Government would be assured of the intention of the public and that it would be in a position to take up the construction work in hand. In response to that appeal I have received a number of letters from the public, which are under the active consideration of the Government.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : May I know from the hon. Premier whether his Government is considering any proposal to transfer the whole building material for utilisation in the Bhakra Dam construction ?

Premier : The hon. Member is aware that every intelligent and sensible person would try to drive maximum amount of benefit out of his commodity. So if the conditions continue unfavourably like the present and the Government is compelled to further postpone the construction of Capital, then the hon. Member would agree with me that it would be advisable rather creditable, for the Government to make the best use of this building material and save it from going waste.

REMOVAL OF L. CHUNI LAL AND L. PYARE LAL EX-PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT FROM THE MEMBERSHIP OF TOWN COMMITTEE, GIDDARBAHA, DISTRICT FEROZEPUR.

***1273. Mehta Ranbir Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that L. Chuni Lal and L. Pyare Lal Ex-President and Vice-President respectively of Town Committee, Giddarbaha, District Ferozepur, have been removed from its membership ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(*b*) whether any opportunity was given to them to give an explanation and reply to the charges ; if any, made against them ;

(*c*) whether the Government is prepared to lay on the table the representation of the said members in this connection and Government's reply thereto, if any ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

(*a*) Yes, the two members were removed under Section 7 of the Punjab Small Towns Act, 1922, for being persistently remiss in the discharge of their duties.

(*b*) No opportunity was given to these members because—

(*i*) Government was convinced that they had grossly misused their powers as members,

(*ii*) they had received repeated warnings from the local officers, and

(*iii*) because it is not necessary under the Small Towns Act to give such an opportunity.

(*c*) No.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether it is the policy of the Government to take drastic action against a person before giving him a chance for offering his defence ?

Minister: My reply to part (b) of the original question covers this query.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether it is a fact that the citizens of that place wrote to Government vouching for the honesty and entegrity of L. Chuni Lall and L. Pyare Lal and stated that their removal from membership has been brought about on the report of that Magistrate who did not have good relations with them ?

Minister: It is correct that certain people did write in their favour but at the same time number of complaints, too, had been received by the Government, who took action after carefully considering the matter.

Mehta Ranbir Singh Is it a fact that during the tenure of office of these two gentlemen, the town made a great progress in the matter of sanitation, etc. ?

Minister : It is a matter of opinion.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is the hon. Minister in a position to tell the House those specific matters or affairs of the Town Committee, in which they acted wrongly and were thus responsible for putting the Committee to a loss ?

Minister : I require notice for this.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is the hon. Minister aware that the policy of taking action against a person without giving an opportunity to defend himself, causes great resentment in the public ?

Mr. Speaker : It is an expression of opinion.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether this policy is to be applied to matters concerning only Local Bodies or other departments as well ? Is it to be made a general policy ?

Minister : The hon. Member is entirely mistaken if he holds such an opinion. He is rather going wide of the mark. I have already stated that the action was taken after duly giving reminders to the gentlemen about their irregularities. Under the circumstances there is no room left for making any complaints.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether it is a fact that the Magistrate of that place acted improperly in sending adverse reports against the gentlemen in question ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the local officers who sent them reminders brought specific irregularities committed by them to their notice ?

Minister : Yes.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the Government had fully satisfied itself before taking action against them that the gentlemen in question were guilty of serious irregularities ?

Minister : Government were satisfied that the charges brought against them were correct.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether Government considers the punishment awarded to them is commensurate with the irregularities committed by them ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether the Government treats even the persons in their service as communists ? (*Laughter*)

Mr. Speaker : The question is irrelevant.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Will the hon. Minister please state whether any enquiry was instituted in connection with the representation made by these gentlemen ? May I know whether it is yet the intention of the Government to hold an enquiry into the injustice that has been perpetrated upon them as alleged in their representation ?

Minister : The question of enquiry does not arise as the action taken by Government was based on equity and justice.

SUPPLY OF WHEAT BY GOVERNMENT TO RATION DEPOTS IN THE PROVINCE

***1138. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Civil Supplies, Electricity and Industries be pleased to state :—

(*a*) (*i*) the total quantity of wheat supplied to the urban area ration depots in each district separately from the date of enforcement of Rationing System upto 31st August 1949 ;

(*ii*) the date on which the rationing of foodgrains was enforced in each district of the Province ;

(*b*) the average total cost of wheat per maund incurred by the Government supplied for the purpose ;

(*c*) the average total sale proceeds of wheat per maund realised from the public in each district separately ;

(*d*) whether any profit has been made by the Government on this account ; if so, the total amount of profit so earned uptill 31st August 1949 ;

(*e*) the manner in which this profit is proposed to be spent ;

(*f*) the total quantity of wheat supplied in all the districts uptill 31st August 1949 since the date of enforcement of rationing ;

(*g*) the total cost incurred by Government on wheat supplied in rationing areas since the enforcement of rationing system to 31st August 1949 ;

(*h*) the total sale proceeds of the wheat supplied for the aforesaid period ?

(*i*) the total profit earned by the Government on this account for the aforesaid period ?

The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh :

(*a*) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.†

(*b*) and (*c*) It will involve considerable time and labour to collect the information but if the hon. Member is keen to have the information supplied, the same will be communicated to them.

(*d*) First part :—No.

2nd part :—Does not arise.

(*e*) Does not arise.

(*f*) 21,63,935 maunds, 21 seers and 12 chhataks.

(*g*) Same as (*b*) and (*c*) above.

---

†Kept in the library

(*h*) Same as (*b*) and (*c*) above.

(*i*) Nill.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Will the hon. Minister please tell us the approximate loss incurred by the Government in this whole affair ?

Minister : Government have neither suffered any loss nor earned any profit on the Rationing Scheme, as it is being worked on no profit no loss basis.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know as to who is made to bear the over-head charges ?

Minister : The consumer.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Will the hon. Minister please let us know the figures about the income and expenditure of the Rationing Scheme on which he has based his reply ?

Minister : I require notice for that.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : But how has he arrived at the conclusion that neither any profit has been made nor any loss sustained ?

Minister : It is and has been the policy of the Government even during previous controls to calculate the whole expenditure, prepare a proforma and then spread it on the consumers in such a manner that the profit and loss is balanced.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether this is merely a paper scheme or is it being actually acted upon ?

Minister : It is being translated into action.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Is it a fact that as a result of the rationing scheme, the growers of food-grains *i. e.*, zamindars have been put to financial loss while the consumers in the urban areas are benefitting at their cost ?

Mr. Speaker : It is an expression of opinion.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Will the hon. Minister please let us know the estimated percentage of the consumer's cost which is being borne by the Government ?

Minister : If the hon. Member gives notice, I will collect the desired information. However, this much I can say that with regard to millets and wheat the expenses per maund come to Rs. 1-7-0 and Rs. 1-12-0 respectively and they include procurement as well as other incidental charges.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : May I know whether the charge of Rs. 1-7-0 per maund covers the shortage resulting from the damage to food grains during the last rainy season.

Minister : No. Ordinarily expenses of any normal shortage are included but any other damage or loss of food grains is not included in this cost.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it a fact that there is a difference of two to three rupees in the cost of wheat per maund supplied to the people of Delhi and East Punjab by their respective authorities. Is the price of wheat higher in our Province than Delhi ?

Minister : It is a fact that wheat is supplied to people of Delhi Province at comparatively cheaper rates. The reason for this is not far to seek. Government of India is subsidizing them as a result of which the authorities there purchase wheat at higher rates and supply the same to people at cheaper rates.

CASES IN RESPECT OF IRON AND STEEL QUOTA.

* **1141. Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Civil Supplies, Electricity and Industries be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the total number of prosecutions started about misuse of steel quota in East Punjab ;

(*b*) names of firms involved with details of quota obtained by each one of them ;

(*c*) the number of above referred to firms belonging to refugees and non-refugees respectively ;

(*d*) the names of hon. Members of this House who have been allotted any quota of iron and steel either in their own names or as partners in any firm in East Punjab ?

The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh : (*a*) 63.

(*b*) A list giving the names of the firms involved, with details of quota obtained by each, is laid on the table.†

(*c*) Of the above referred to firms, 34 are refugees and 15 are non-refugees.

(*d*) (*i*) Names of hon. Members of the East Punjab Legislative Assembly, who have been allotted quotas of iron and steel in their own names, are as below :—

1. Chaudhri Sundar Lal of Karnal.
2. Shri Parbodh Chandra of Gurdaspur.

(*ii*) The matter is still under investigation.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Is it a fact that these 34 refugee firms have drawn different quotas of iron and steel, *i.e.*, 2 tons, 4 tons and 6 tons ?

Minister : I cannot say verbally. They might have probably drawn the said quotas.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Will the hon. Minister please state from the list which he has placed on the table whether any refugee has drawn more quota than 2 tons, 4 tons and 6 tons ?

Minister : The list is lying with the hon. Member and the figures given therein are correct.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member has already asked the names of the firms and quotas allotted.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Will the hon. Premier please state whether the Advisory Committee had made any recommendation to the effect that cases should not be instituted against those refugees who had drawn 2 tons and 4 tons of iron and steel quota each ?

†Kept in the library.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Does the hon. Premier remember that the hon. Member Giani Kartar Singh had placed a resolution before him to the effect that the previous Government had warned refugees at the last stage that they should either open their workshops or be prepared for the cancellation of their quotas ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : On a Point of Order, Sir. Does this question arise out of the answer given ?

Mr. Speaker : It is for me to decide and not for the hon. Member.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : May I know whether those refugees from West Punjab can be saved from being prosecuted who happen to commit crimes here ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Is it a fact that the Central Government and the U. P. Government have withdrawn such cases against the refugees ?

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta : May I know if there are any hon. Members or Ministers who succeeded in getting quotas not for themselves but for others. (*Laughter*)

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : May I know if such persons have been prosecuted by the Government whose cases had been condoned by the previous Government ?

Minister : I cannot reply this question.

Premier : I would like to bring this point home to my hon. Friends, Chaudhri Kartar Singh and Shri Durga Chand Kaushish, who have put these questions, that if they insinuate that Government allotted quotas to people with full realisation that they would sell them in blackmarket and thus earn profit, then the insinuation of the hon. Members is absolutely wrong and baseless.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Is the hon. Premier aware of the fact that the previous Government had in one of its Advisory Committee meetings passed a resolution to the effect that a last warning should be given to those refugees who had not opened workshops and that their quotas should be cancelled, if they do not do so ?

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Sir, I have asked a question. I do not ask whether quota holders have been permitted to sell their quotas in black-market. What I want to know is this whether there are any such cases which were condoned by the previous Government but which have b en re-opened by the present Government.

Premier : No.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : It is a fact that Government did not permit them to do so with full realization. But may I know that in certain cases Government did not take due precaution and as a result of it the quotas of iron and steel were misused ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Has the Government taken or intends to take any action against such officers who have not taken due care, as a result of which quotas have been misused ?

Premier: Action is taken against such officers who are proved to be guilty.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta: May I know if there is any hon. Minister or Member of this House who has succeeded in obtaining quotas in the name of some other person, but has earned a good profit himself ?

Mr Speaker: Government cannot know that.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: Is it a fact that the hon. Premier issued a statement about one of his Parlimentary Secretaries ?

Premier: Yes.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: Is it a fact that he issued the statement before he received the report of the police enquiry ?

Premier: No.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: Is it a fact that the Parliamentary Secretary went to the higher officers with the draft of the statement and told them that the hon. Premier wanted to issue that statement ? Is it also a fact that the police officers told him that if the hon. Premier liked he could issue that statement and that they had no objection to that ?

Premier: I received the report after the police made complete enquiries. In this report it was clearly proved that no charge had been found against my Parliamentary Secretary. I called the concerned police officers and again enquired from them if there was any lacuna left in the report, I was assured that it was complete and that there was nothing against him. I approved this report and issued the statement. I was going away the day I issued the statement. Further, before issuing the statement I sent the draft statement to the Deputy Inspector General of Police, C. I. D, only as a matter of precaution for further scrutiny.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal: Sir, none of these supplementary questions arise out of the answer given to the original question.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is not expected to decide this.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal: I only wanted to draw your attention, Sir.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: Is it a fact that the hon. Premier decided this case without studying the report of inquiry submitted by D. S. P., Lala Des Raj ?

Premier: This is incorrect. I sent that report to D. I. G., C. I. D., who gave his remarks after fully satisfying himself and it was only after the enquiry had been completed, that the case was decided.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: Is it a fact that the Parliamentary Secretary of the hon. Premier was drawing both urban as well as agricultural quota, despite the policy laid down by the previous Ministry that no body should be given both the quotas?

Premier: I do not know, bnt I am just now told that this is not correct.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that some hon. Members of this House are feeling annoyed because they are alleged to have been directly and indirectly involved in iron and steel scandal ?

Premier : It is with regret that I have to admit that it is a fact I am also conscious of the reactions of this annoyance.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact some hon. Members who are not receiving quotas in their own names; are deriving monetary gain from them by reason of their share in some firm or the other?

Premier : As the cases are still under investigation, the hon. Member will appreciate that it is not at present possible to reply to this question.

MONOPOLY OF PRINTING WORK.

*1150 **Shri Virendra** : Will the hon. Minister for Civil Supplies, Electricity and Industries be pleased to state:—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have recently given monopoly of printing work to certain press in Delhi; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(*b*) the terms on which the work referred to above has been given to that Press ?

The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh : (*a*) Printing of 34 series of forms used in Government offices; has been entrusted to Messrs. Gulab Singh & Sons, Delhi, on a monopoly basis for a period of one year as the system of entrusting printing work of the East Punjab Government which could not be undertaken by Government Presses, to various private presses, was unsatisfactory and expensive. Tenders were invited for this work by advertisement and the work was entrusted to the lowest tenderer.

(*b*) A copy of the terms on which the work has been entrusted to the firm is placed on the table. †

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it not a fact that a number of Printing Presses of East Punjab had made an offer to the Government to execute this work on the same terms as the Press in Delhi, to which monopoly has been given ?

Minister : This is wrong. I, myself, scrutinised the tenders. The lowest tender was submitted by M/s. Gulab Singh & Sons of Delhi.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Could not the work be distributed among the East Punjab Presses on the same terms ? Was not the hon. Minister requested to do so ?

Minister : I admit this is true. I was approached by a deputation of the proprietors of East Punjab Presses with this request and I had even selected some of them for entrusting this work to them. But after this the Secretary-in-Charge informed me that the work could not be given in lots, as the tenders had been called for the whole work to be executed on payment of a lump sum and so the lowest tender had to be accepted. I did not agree to his sugges-

†Kept in the library

[Minister for Civil Supplies]

tion and referred the matter to the Legal Remembrancer. I have got his opinion in writing and have no hestiation in reading it out. What I want to emphasise is that we were not in a position to split the work and I had to act against my personal inclination and desire in this matter.

Captain Ranjit Singh : Has not Government the right to cancel a particular tender ?

Minister : The work was suffering and so the printing work could not brook delay. If fresh tenders had been invited, another month or two would have been wasted.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal : May I know if the entrusting of work could not have waited for a few days more, especially with a view to giving the work to East Punjab Presses ?

Minister : I have already submitted that I had to act against my own wishes. I did not myself desire that the work should go to the presses at Delhi, but the official work was suffering. However, I passed orders that in future the work should not be given on a monopoly basis and that East Punjab Presses be given preference. I can read it out for the information of the House.

> " I would like to help small press owners particularly those who hav. established presses in East Punjab, but in view of the legal opinion given above we can not split up the work. The lump sum lowest tenderer should therefore, get the work. In future, however, tenders should be invited in such volume of work as might enable the small presses to complete. The capacity of each press should be ascertained and a record kept in this office"

I would also like to inform the House that after that we invited tenders for small quantities of work in lots. This work will be distributed among seven or eight firms of East Punjab.

SELA TYPE OF RICE.

***1182. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta** : Will the hon. Minister for Civil Supplies, Electricity and industries be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the District Food Rationing Department in the Hoshiarpur District offers sela type of rice stocked in the year 1946 or 1947 for distribution to people of the deficit rural areas of the District ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that this type of rice gives noxious smell and is entirely unfit for human consumption ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the public does not purchase such rice ;

(*d*) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter ?

The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh :

(*a*) No. At present rice of 1948 crop is being issued.

(*b*) 'Sela' rice is not unfit for human consumption, it does give a bad smell ; but if properly trated and soaked in water for a couple of hours, the smell disappears considerably.

(*c*) No. During the last year 398 tons of 'sela' rice have been consumed.

(*d*) This Province is deficit in rice. Government distributes whatever variety is available. In Mukerian Circle of the Hoshiarpur District poor quality of paddy is grown which if not turned into 'sela' would give a high percentage of 'tota' and 'kani'. Government has, however, banned the production of sela rice for the future.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta: Has the hon. Minister ever tasted sela rice ?

Minister : I have seen it.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta : May I know on whose experience has the hon. Minister based his reply to part (b) of the question ?

Minister : On the basis of the experience of the people who have consumed 398 tons of this variety of rice ?

Sardar Partap Singh : Is it not a fact that the scarcity of rice is due to defective process of husking and thus the restrictions that you have imposed in this connection are not proper ?

Minister: The shortage is due to the fact that it is not produced in sufficient quantity in this Province. It cannot be attributed to defective husking. In the ordinary process of husking *i. e.* by beating, and winnowing, some quantity comes out in a broken condition. *i. e.* 'tota' It is to avoid this, that the method of husking by boiling is resorted to. On the complaint of people of Kangra, I passed orders that preparation of sela rice be stopped. But the Government of India wrote to us that nutritive value of sela rice was more than the other varieties of rice, and that as there was shortage of rice, preparation of this variety should continue. We had to comply with their instructions. So instead of stopping it completely, it was decided that its should be prepared in less quantity. We are also reducing the rates of sela rice to attract the people to purchase it.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether before the distribution of sela type of rice, the Government sent it to the Chemical Examiner to know if it would cease to give obnoxious smell and become fit for human consumption ?

Minister : All things have been enquired into and the Government of India have also made experiment how this type of rice can be improved.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I would like to know whether this damaged rice has ever been sent to the Chemical Examiner for examination ?

Minister : It is sent if it is considered necessary. We received number of complaints from the people and 400 tons of rice was only sold. We discontinued the supply in view of these complaints though the Government of India did not favour this idea as it entailed loss to the Government.

Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : Was any report received from the Government of India to the effect that this rice contained much nutritive value. Is it a fact that the Government did not pay heed to the strong protests on the plea that It contained much nutritive avlue ?

Minister : I am not in a position to say that it contains much nutritive value. If the people do not like this type of rice the cultivators could be asked not to produce this type of rice.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Can the Government order any person to refrain from using any type of rice ?

Minister : It depends upon the people and the Government has nothing to do with it.

WHEAT AND GRAM FOR RATIONING PURPOSES.

***1183. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon. Minister for Civil Supplies, Electricity and Industries be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of wheat and gram stocked for rationing purposes and distribution to deficit rural areas in the Province has been eaten by worms and has deteriorated due to bad arrangements of storage ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the same wheat or gram is distributed without removing the grit, dust or rotten matter from the stock ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the Government has received a large number of complaints regarding this matter ;

(*d*) the steps taken by Government to ensure supply of pure foodgrains in future ?

The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh :

(*a*) No. There has been no widespread deterioration, save for stray cases of infestation of country grain and a number of cases of imported grain ; the latter does not stand long storage well. Government has had to procure and make use of whatever storage accommodation was available.

(*b*) No. There are standing instructions that all grain including imported wheat, should be cleaned before issue ; either in the form of whole grain or for milling into atta. (In Roller Flour Mills and chakkis fitted with mechancial cleaning arrangements, all grain is cleaned by the mill. Elsewhere it is issued after cleaning by Government).

(*c*) There were a number of complaints at the commencement of rationing and distribution. This was mainly due to the colour and the comparatively poor and inferior quality of imputed wheat received.

(*d*) Apart from cleaning referred to above, imported wheat is now blended with country wheat in reasonable proportion. It has also been notified in the press that complaints of this nature should be reported at once, with necessary details, to the Local Rationing Controllers for immediate action.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta : Is it not a fact that the people sent the sample of poor and inferior quality of wheat and gram to the District Authorities which contained dust and rotten matter ?

Minister : There were a number of complaints of this nature. The stock of wheat had been spoiled on account of heavy rains this year at Ambala. The wheat so deteriorated and rendered unfit for human consumption was ordered to be thrown away and good wheat was set apart for distribution. No complaint was received in respect of wet wheat that was distributed after being dried in the sun.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta : Is it a fact that there is no satisfactory arrangement for storing wheat and gram like the storage bins that existed in the United Punjab.

Minister : In the Unitid Punjab the such bins had the storage capacity to the extent of 41,000 tons which were built according to the scheme of Government of India. Now there is a storage capacity of 9,000 tons in three mandies only and nowhere else. In Ludhiana and Ferozepore which are surplus districts Government intend to build storage bins. Government has had to procure and make use of whatever storage accommodation was available and it had to face this difficulty on account of inadequate arrangements for storage.

Sardar Swaran Singh : May I know in what proportion the poor quality of wheat is blended with country wheat?

Minister : The imported wheat does not stand long storage well and gets infested. Government have issued standing instructions to use certain medicines at short intervals to prevent infestation and the resultant loss.

Sardar Swaran Singh : How long will it take to discontinue the import of wheat from foreign countries ?

Minister : If we are able to produce wheat in sufficient quantity equal to our requirements then the wheat will not be imported from outside. We are importing less stock of wheat for the next year as compared to the last year. Fortunately the wheat harvest in the Province promises to be good this year. We have also kept a reserve of 4000 tons of wheat for the next year.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that instructions issued by the Government in the matter of careful preservation of stock are not rigidly followed ?

Minister : Instructions are carefully observed. There are Inspectors for this purpose and the District Food Controller is responsible for close supervision of the stock. Moreover, when I go on tour, I inspect the godowns and see that the staff employed for this purpose work satisfactorily.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if any Government servant has been penalised for not carrying out the instructions of the Government ?

Minister : Yes. The District Food Controller, Ambala, has been removod from service for not making satisfactory arrangements.

MANDI DHARAMKOT.

***1212. Mehta Ranbir Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Civil Supplies, Electricity and Industries be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government appointed Dharamkot Mandi, under Procurement Scheme and subsequently cancelled it, if so, the reasons thereof ?

The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh : Yes. Dharamkot Mandi was opened under the Procurement Scheme and subsequently closed, as it adversely affected the business community and labour in the existing bigger mandis of the area, without adding greatly to facilities of marketing for the producer.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it a fact that the Dharamkot Mandi existed before the Procurement Scheme came into being ?

Minister : If it existed before then it must also be existing now. We are only concerned with the Procurment Scheme.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : If it did exist before why should it not have been patronized under the scheme.

Minister : We particularly concentrated on those Mandis from where wheat could be smuggled into the stocks. So far as this Mandi is concerned there was no such fear. What is more we could not expect more than 234 maunds of wheat from this place. Consequently we did not think it worth while to give it recognition.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : But is it not a fact that this Mandi has suffered owing to the Procurement Scheme ?

Minister : I have already said that recognition could not be given to this Mandi as only a very insignificant quantity of wheat *i. e.*, only 234 maunds, was coming forth from this place.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Has not recognition been given to Mandis which yield still smaller quantities.

Minister : There is no such Mandi.

DAMAGE TO FOODGRAINS AT AMBALA CITY.

***1226. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Civil Supplies, Electricity and Industries be pleased to state whether due to rains and lack of accomodation, foodgrains stored by the District Food Authorities were damaged at Ambala City last July ; if so, extent of damage, the quantity of foodgrains so damaged, the name of the officer responsible for this damage and the action taken against the officer in question ?

The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh :

(*i*) Yes. Some stocks of foodgrains were damaged due to rains and lack of godown accommodation at Ambala City.

		Mds.	Srs.	Ch.
(*ii*) wheat	..	7402	8	5
barley	...	11	10	0

The above quantities were involved.

(*iii*) Out of the above quantities the following quantities were saved and used for milling without loss as the grain was fit for consumption.

	Mds.	Srs.	Ch.
Wheat ...	4067	18	14

The remaining stocks, *viz*

Wheat ...	3584	18	10 and
Barley ..	11	10	0

having been rendered unfit for consumption were sold for purposes other than human consumption.

(*iv*) An enquiry was made and S. Bikram Singh, District Food Controller, Ambala, was held responsible for not finding suitable arrangement for storage before the breach of Moonsoons.

(*v*) His services in this department have been retrenched.

Mr. Speaker : Day after day I had been getting questions from the hon. Members about other hon. Members of the House and I have allowed these questions to be asked with the hope that the Government by giving a reply would make the position of the hon. Members, about whom questions are asked, quite clear. It is my duty to maintain the dignity of the House and this can only be done if the dignity of the hon. Members of the House is maintained. Therefore, in such cases I expect from the hon. Ministers that they would give replies which would clear the position of the Members of the House.

IRCN AND STEEL SCANDAL.

***1235. Pa ndit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Civil Supplies, Electricity and Industries be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of cases inquired into so far with regard to iron and steel scandal.

(*b*) the number of those among them challaned in the Court.

(*c*) how many of these persons challaned were *bonafide* Congressmen holding important positions in the Congress Organization and what are the names ;

(*d*) how many of the persons challaned are M. L. As. or their close relations ?

The Hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh :

(*a*) 74 cases registered and investigated.

(*b*) 63.

(*c*) Government are not in a position to supply the information asked for.

(*d*) (*i*) One (M. L. A.).

(*ii*) Five (close relations).

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Why did the hon. Minister in a statement to the press say that 5 per cent of the people involved were Congressmen when in reply to part (c) of my question, it is said that Government is not in a position to give this information ?

Minister : I think there are very few Congressmen involved and as a matter of fact my statement was based on a rough idea that I had formed on seeing the list.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I ask what is the difficulty in supplying the information when it has already been said that *bona-fide* Congressmen holding important positions were involved ?

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Will the hon. Minister please say as to how has the Member representing the Central Punjab land-holders been implicated when it is said that two Members are involved ?

Mr. Speaker : The matter is sub-judice.

Minister : That was what I wanted to say.

IRON AND STEEL SCANDAL.

***1236. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Civil Supplies, Electricity and Industries be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of A, B and C Class quota holders who are involved in the iron and steel scandal ;

(*b*) the number out of them who got quota only once ;

(*c*) the names of such 'A' class quota holders, who were not previously fabricators ;

(*d*) whether it is also a fact that before the present Ministry came into office these quotas were issued in several cases as a sort of *inam* and financial help with full knowledge that the quota would be sold in black market ;

(*e*) whether the present Ministry did consider this aspect of the matter before taking any step to stop the scandal ?

The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh :

(*a*) It is regretted that the information asked for is not readily available and the time and labour involved will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

(*b*) Of all the quota holders 35 persons or firms were issued quota only once.

(*c*) A list giving the names of 'A' class quota-holders who were not previous fabricators is laid on the table. †

(*d*) The distribution was done according to the policy laid down by the Government which did not indicate anything of the nature suggested.

(*e*) Does not arise.

---

†*Kept in the library.*

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the hon. Minister or the hon. Premier kindly say whether cases pending against people who got only one quota or those who were guilty only in a technical sense will be withdrawn by Government ?

Premier : Whether an offence is technical or non-technical can only be decided by Courts. But I may for the information of hon. Members say that the people who got the quotas can be divided into two categories. The first category is those who did not use the quota themselves, *i. e.*, those who were not fabricators. The second consisted of those who actually were fabricators. The Government has inquired into the cases of the first category who had no factories or workshops of their own and were simply selling the quotas.

Now the question arises whether those who have got only one quota should be proceeded against or not. Despite the fact that these people have committed a crime their cases would be sympathetically considered if the House desires that action should not be taken against them. I have not yet ascertained the sense of the House, but I assure the hon. Members that in case the House or for that matter the Congress Assembly Party advises that those who got only one quota would no longer indulge in black market, as they had already suffered enough, cases against them will be withdrawn by Government.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

USE OF FUEL WOOD BY EXECUTIVE ENGINEERS (IRRIGATION).

300. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the total quantity of fuel wood taken by the Executive Engineer (Irrigation) of each Canal Division of the main Canal Circle for making use of in his office and bungalows from the Forest Department during 1948, together with the price of the wood at the market value given to each Canal Division ;

(*b*) whether any quantity of forest wood is allowed free of cost for use in the residential bungalows of the Canal Officers during winter ; if so, the minimum quantity so allowed ?

The hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :

(*a*) There is no main canal circle in the Irrigation Branch, East Punjab, hence the required information cannot be supplied.

(*b*) No free supyly of fuel wood is given to Irrigation Branch Officers for use in their residential bungalows during winter.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY THE OFFICERS OF THE CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

301. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Civil Supplies, Electricity and Industries be pleased to state the travelling allowance drawn by each of the Officers of Civil Supplies Department including the Officers of Food Procurement Branch of the Civil Secretariat Office during the year 1948-49 ?

The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh :

A statement is laid on the table. †

EXPENDITURE ON THE CIVIL SECRETARIAT ESTABLISHMENT.

302. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state the total expenditure of the Civil Secretariat Establishment and Senior Officers, respectively, including Chief Secretary for the months of March 1948, September 1948, March 1949 and September 1949 with the following particulars :—

(*i*) Travelling allowance.

(*ii*) Basic salaries.

(*iil*) Simla allowance ; and

(*iv*) Dearness and other allowances ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Saohar : A statement giving the information is laid on the table.

---

† Kept in the Library.

	March 1948			September 1948			March 1949			September 1949		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	P.
(*i*) Travelling Allowance												
(*a*) Establishment	1,601	8	0	2,100	14	0	1,996	9	0	932	6	0
(*b*) Officers	1,958	0	0	2,847	5	0	3,348	15	0	3,258	3	0
(*ii*) Basic Salaries												
(*a*) Establishment	54,541	7	0	56,146	4	0	70,802	14	0	70,335	1	0
(*b*) Officers	31,647	4	0	38,827	3	0	41,774	8	0	43,826	3	0
(*iii*) Simla Allowance												
(*a*) Establishment	17,547	9	0	17,713	14	0	22,434	9	0	22,825	10	0
(*b*) Officers	1,365	3	0	1,687	14	0	1,799	10	0	2,082	4	0
(*iv*) Dearness & other allowances												
(*a*) Establishment	24,520	14	0	26,241	7	0	29,995	11	0	35,255	15	0
(*b*) Officers	3,331	7	0	3,306	12	0	4,032	0	0	4,949	10	0
Total	1,36,513	4	0	1,49,471	9	0	1,76,284	12	0	1,82,465	4	0

EXPENDITURE ON THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

303. Sardar Sajjan Singh: Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state the total expenditure of the Police Department including travelling allowance and other miscellaneous charges in each District of the Province for the months of March and September, 1948 and March and September, 1949 ?

The hon Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: The information asked by the hon. Member is not yet available. It will be communicated to the hon. Member when ready.

ALLOTMENT OF LANDS IN VILLAGE DHOTA.

304. Sardar Sajjan Singh: Will the hon. Minister for Land Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the total cultivable area belonging to evacuees at village Dhota, Tehsil Tarn Taran, District Amritsar ;

(*b*) the names of the temporary allottees to whom this area was allotted during the year 1947 ;

(*c*) the village from which the allottees mentioned in part (b) had migrated from Pakistan and the kind of the land they owned there ;

(*d*) whether Tehsil Tarn Taran was meant for allocation to these allottees ;

(*e*) whether the kind of land at village Dhota was similar to that which they had left in Pakistan ?

The hon. Sardar Joginder Singh Mann:

(*a*) 24.8 standard acres.

(*b*)	(*c*)	(*d*)
1. S. Asa Singh, son of S. Kanhaya Singh.	(*i*) Chak 253 R. B. in Lyallpur Tehsil. (*ii*) First Class.	Yes.
2. Pt. Rallia Ram, son of Pt. Ganpat Rai.	(*i*) Village Mastpur Bedia in Tehsil Gujranwala. (*ii*) Second Class.	No.

(*e*) The land in village Dhota is first grade.

NON-OFFICIAL VISITORS OF JAILS.

305. Sardar Sajjan Singh: Will the hon, Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the names together with their full home addresses of the non-official visitors of jails in each district of the Jullundur Division since 17th September 1947 together with the date of the appointment of each non-official visitor ;

(*b*) the number of visits paid by each of the aforesaid visitors uptill 15th September 1949 to each jail ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(*a*) and (*b*) A statement containing the required information is attached. †

FAMILY QUARTERS FOR POLICE OFFICERS.

306. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether there is any police station in Amritsar District where no family quarters for the police officers and constables have been contructed so far ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(*b*) whether he is aware of the fact that in the neighbourhood of the Beas Police Station, District Amritsar, no house is available for the police employees ;

(*c*) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the police employees at Beas are experiencing great hardships for the non-availability of houses ; if so, what steps the Government proposes to take in the matter of relieving the police employees of their present housing difficulties ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(*a*) Yes, at the following Police Station.

1. Civil Lines.	8. Ramdas
2. 'A' Division (Amritsar City)	9. City Tarn Taran
3. 'B' ,, ,,	10. Jandiala
4. 'C' ,, ,,	11. Verowal
5. 'D' ,, ,,	12. Beas
6. Gharinda	13. Valtoha
7. Lopoke	14. Khalra

Family quarters are available only for City Inspector attached to Police Station 'E' Division. City Inspector and Sub-Inspectors attached to Police Stations Ajnala and Sadar Tarn Taran.

(*b*) Houses can be had on rent at Budha Theh and Mandi Beas which are situated at a distance of about 100 and 200 yards respectively from the Beas Police Station.

(*c*) Yes. The question of construction of married quarters will be taken up when the financial position eases.

†Kept in the library.

POLICE LOCK-UPS.

307. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether there are no police lock-ups attached A. D. O. and division police stations of Amritsar City and the undertrial prisoners of these areas are sent to City Police lock-up during the time the prisoners are remanded to custody ;

(*b*) whether owing to increase in crimes, the city police lock-up is overcrowded ; if so, what steps the Government proposes to take in the matter to avoid overcrowding ?

The hon Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes. There is a proposal to provide more accomodation in local jail, which will relieve overcrowding in the police lock-up.

IMPREST MONEY

308. Sardar Sajjan Slngh : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the amount sanctioned for contingencies in each of the police stations of Amritsar District for the month of August, 1949 ;

(*b*) the imprest money sanctioned for each of the police stations of Amritsar District for the month of July, 1949;

(*c*) the amount actully spent in each of the police stations mentioned above for contingencies in the month of August 1949 including the charges of papers and carbon papers brought for ziminis and other non-available printed forms;

(*d*) the amount actually spent every month from January, 1949 to July, 1949, under the item "Imprest money" in each of the aforesaid police stations ;

(*e*) whether the amount spent in excess of the sanctioned amount for contingencies was paid by the Government, if not, the reasons therefor ;

(*f*) whether the amount spent was far in excess of the imprest money in many of the police stations mentioned in part (d) above ; if so, wherefrom this amount was spent ;

(*g*) the steps Government proposes to take to meet the ever increasing expenditure under the item imprest money ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(*a*)
(*b*) } Statements giving the requisite information are enclosed.†
(*c*)
(*d*)

(*e*) Yes, does not arise,

---

†Kept in the library.

(*f*) Yes, the bills when received from Police Stations were immediately drawn and paid to the parties concerned.

(*g*) The question of increasing the imprest money is being examined.

HIRE FOR MOTOR LORRY VEHICLES

309. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of the motor lorry vehicles and station wagons requisitioned by the Government from each of the transport companies in the Amritsar District in the months of August and September, 1947 with the period for which these vehicles were retained by the Government and also the hire fixed per day for the purpose ;

(*b*) the total amount demanded by each of the transport companies mentioned in part (a) above as hire of these vehicles;

(*c*) the dates when the bills of hire demanded by the companies mentioned above were received by the District or higher police authorities for payment ;

(*d*) whether any hire referred to above has been paid to any of the companies so far ; if so, what amount has been paid to each company up till now and if no hire has been paid, to each the reasons for the delay ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : A statement is laid on the table.†

CANAL WATER FOR VILLAGE THATHI JAIMAL SINGH.

310. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that S. Sohan Singh and other Zamindars of village Thathi Jaimal Singh, Tahsil Patti, District Amritsar, complained to the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, Executive Engineer, Majitha Division, and Superintending Engineer, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar, during 1st half of September 1949, stating therein, that no canal water had reached their out-let at the tail for the last 2 months ; if so, whether any enquiry was made into the matter ; if so, with what results ;

(*b*) the total area of the aforesaid village under the command of canal outlet in question ;

(*c*) the total area under the command of this outlet actually irrigated during Kharif 1948 Rabi, 1949 and Kharif 1949, respectively ?

The hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :

(*a*) Yes. A joint enquiry was made by Sub-Divisional Officer, Canals and Revenue Assistant, Amritsar. The allegations of short

†Kept in the library.

[Minister for Public Works]

supply at the tail were found absolutely baseless. In fact channel was running full from head to tail and the condition of standing crops was quite good.

(*b*) Total permissible area is 260 acres in each crop.

(*c*) Kharif 1948 =258 acres
Rabi 1948-1949 =238 acres
Kharif 1949 =292 acres.

SUPPLY OF CANAL WATER ON THE OUTLETS OF JAGATPURA MINOR.

311. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that S. Jagir Singh and other Zamindars of village Sur Singh, Tahsil Patti, District Amritsar, complained to the Canal Authorities, Majitha Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar, in the 1st half of September 1949, that they had received no canal water on the outlets of Jagatpura minor, if so, whether any enquiry was made and if so, with what results ;

(*b*) the steps taken by the Canal Authorities to avoid the repetition of this incident in future ;

(*c*) the total area under the command of the aforesaid canal outlets ;

(*d*) the total area irrigated during Kharif 1948 and Kharif 1949, respectively ?

The hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :

(*a*) (*i*) Yes ;

(*ii*) and (*iii*) Yes. The site was inspected and trouble removed. The main branch lower running with low supply this year, special arrangements were made to feed Jagatpur Distributory to its authoritites discharge.

(*b*) The trouble was due to abnormally low supply in the river this year, which could not be helped.

(*c*) 1307 acres.

(*d*) Kharif 1948=323 acres

Kharif 1949=390 acres.

TEMPORARY CANAL OUTLETS IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

312. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the names of the villages of Majitha Division in Amritsar District, in which temporary canal outlets were sanctioned ;

(*b*) whether the outlets constructed were of wood or pucca bricks ;

(c) the cost of construction on each of the aforesaid outlets ;

(d) whether the cost of construction was borne by the Zamindars or by the Government ;

(e) whether these outlets were made of pucca bricks and if so, the source from where the cement for the purpose was obtained ;

(f) the quantity of cement used for each outlet ;

(g) whether any amount was deposited by the Zamindars concerned with the Canal Department Authorities regarding the construction of the outlets ; if so, what was the amount so deposited for each of these outlets ?

The hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :

(a) Temporary outlets were sanctioned for 97 villages. Actual names of villages could not be collected for lack of time.

(b) The temporary outlets were wooden shoots, except in cases of outlets where the embankment of channels was more than two feet, their faces only were canstructed in pucca masonry to save the banks.

(c) The cost of construction is not known as it was and

(d) Borne by the share-holders of the temporary outlets ;

(e) (i) As (b) and (c)

(ii) ....cement was issued by the Government.

(f) The total quantity of cement used for pucca faces was 34 bags.

(g) No. The shareholders only paid the cost of cement.

BUS STANDS BETWEEN HARIKE AND PATTI.

313. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(a) the distance between bus stands of Harike and Patti, District Amritsar ;

(b) whether there is any motor-lorry stand between Harike and Patti ; if not, the reasons for the same ;

(c) whether S. Udham Singh, Member, District Board, Amritsar and others of village Kirtowal, District Amritsar, sent a representation to the Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Jullundur, complaining therein, the non-existence of any wayside motor lorry stand between Harike and Patti, a distance of about 14 miles ;

(d) whether the aforesaid representation was received by the Officer referred to in part (c) above on 1st September 1949 ; if so, what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken in the matter ?

The hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :

(a) The distance between bus stands of Harike and Patti is 15 miles.

[Minister for Public Works]

(*b*) there is no motor lorry stand between Patti and Harike, as there is no important town on this route ;

(*c*) the reply is in the affirmative ;

(*d*) the representation was received by Secretary, R. T. A., Jullundur, on the 1st September 1949 (1-9-1949) and the Company plying on this route (Majha Transport Company, Patti, was directed to provide bus stops between Patti and Harike. Information has been received from the said Transport Company, that arrangements have been made for bus stops at the following 4 places :—

1. Chawk Chuslawar.
2. Bhugupura.
3. Bridge near Kirtowal.
4. Buh.

RAISING OF MORAL STANDARD OF PRISONERS.

314 **Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that instructions were issued by the Home Secretary to Government, East Punjab, to the Inspector General of Prisons that arrangements be made to raise the moral standard of prisoners ;

(b) whether according to this letter instructions were issued to all the Superintendents of Jails in the Province, that in consultation with the Deputy Commissioners they should invite lecturers from outside ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that in compliance with the instructions of this letter the Superintendent of Jail, Ludhiana, arranged for lectures on 7th May 1949 and 31st May 1949 ;

(*d*) whether any further instructions were issued by the Government that certain prisoners may not be allowed to attend such lectures ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(*a*) and (*b*) no orders of the kind referred to have been issued by the East Punjab Government, though such orders were issued by the late Punjab Government in 1939 ;

(*c*) Yes ;

(*d*) No, but detenus who are governed by special rules, cannot attend such lectures, as they are not permitted to interview or hold communication with outsiders.

GARDEN HOUSE BELONGING TO SARDAR BHAG SINGH AT JULLUNDUR

315. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail : Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in August, 1947, Sardar Bhag Singh contractor purchased a Bungalow (Garden House) on Grand Trank Road, opposite Saddar Police Station, Jullundur, and the Government took possession thereof in October, 1947, under the Requisitioning Ordinance ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that 2/3rd of this Bungalow was allotted to the Executive Engineer (Development), Jullundur, for his residence and office and the remaining 1/3rd together with the Guest House and the Servants Quarters has been allotted to a private firm known as Reliable Water Supply Company ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that Sardar Bhag Singh, Contractor has no house for his own residence except the "Garden House";

(*d*) whether it is also a fact that the Government can only take possession of the house under the above-mentioned Ordinance for the use of Government servants or offices and not for private firms ;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the owner of "Garden House" applied for de-requisitioning of the house and the District Magistrate also recommended it, if so, the result of this recommendation ;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that there was a garden covering an area of 23 kanals with the above-mentioned Bungalow at the time of requisitioning ;

(*g*) whether it is also a fact that all the standing trees have either been cut and used as fuel or have dried due to the lack of proper watering ; if so, does Government propose to give any compensation for such damage ;

(*h*) whether the Government is willing to restore to the owner the entire possession of "Garden House" or the portion which has been allotted to Reliable Watter Supply Company ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (*a*) No. According to a statement of Sardar Bhag Singh the owner, the Bungalow was purchased by him on 6th December 1947 and not in August 1947. 2/3rd portion of the bungalow was already under requisition for the Executive Engineer (Development Branch.)

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes, but Sardar Bhag Singh's place of business is Barnpur (West Bengal)

(*d*) No.

(*e*) It is not in the public interest to disclose this information.

(*f*) Yes.

[Minister for Finance]

(*g*) No. The garden is in the same condition as it was at the time when the bunglow was requisitioned and no damage of any kind has been done. The question of payment of compensation, therefore, does not arise.

(*h*) No, as no other suitable accommodation is available for the occupants.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES LOANS (EAST PUNJAB AMENDMENT) BILL.

3 P. M. **Minister for Labour** (The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad): I introduce the Local Authorities Loans (East Punjab Amendment) Bill.

Minister for Labour (*Hindustani*): I move—

That the Local Authorities Loans (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sir, it has been necessary to bring forward this Bill because after the partition of the Province, some Local Bodies were in a very bad financial condition. The income of several committees fell so low that they could not discharge their functions properly. Under these circumstances it was necessary that loans should be advanced to such committees. Under Section 3 of the Act of 1914, which is in force at present, loans to Local Authorities could be advanced only for specific purposes. After the partition of the Punjab the needs of several committees increased manifold and they could not perform their duties without aid in the form of loans. In some cases the committees have not been able to pay the salaries of their employees. Take the case of Dalhousie Municipal Committee, which is a First Grade Committee. After partition its financial condition became so poor that it could not maintain the roads of that beautiful city in proper condition. The Government issued a circular letter inviting applications for loans from such Committees as required them. But these loans could not be given without amending Section 3 of the existing Act. In view of this situation, which came to the notice of the Government on receipt of application from the Municipal Committees of Dalhousie and some other places, an Ordinance to amend Section 3 had to be promulgated. The present Bill is intended to enact the said Ordinance into an Act of the Legislature and I request that it be carried.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That the Local Authorities Loans (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-clause (2)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Sub-clause (2) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 2 AND 3

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried

CLAUSE 1

Sub-clause (1)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Labour : I move—

That the Local Authorities Loans (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

PUNJAB SMALL TOWNS (EAST PUNJAB AMENDMENT) BILL.

Minister for Labour (The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad) : I introduce the Punjab Small Towns (East Punjab Amendment) Bill.

Minister for Labour : I move—

That the Punjab Small Towns (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Small Towns (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepur, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, during the last Session and also yesterday certain Bills were moved which involved the same principle on which the present Bill is based. It was stated that in the prevailing conditions it was not possible to hold elections. I do not wish to repeat the arguments which have been already advanced. It is, however, submitted that the case of Small Town Committees is quite different from that of District Boards or other Committees. Elections to District Boards are held on the basis of joint electorates and a considerable number of voters in their case were Muslims.

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

In the case of Small Towns, the number of Muslim voters is very small. When keeping the democratic principles in view the Government recently called upon the voters of Labour constituency to elect their representative, there is no reason why elections should not be held in the case of Small Town Committees, because in their case ninety per cent voters are still there. The Government in power likes the idea of making nominations, but we should not ignore the democratic principle which gives to the people the right of returning their representatives. The public has never viewed the principle of nomination with approbation. I hope that the hon. Minister will consider this matter and will not insist on this Bill being passed. If it is difficult to hold elections at all the places, the Government should not fight shy of doing so at such places where a large majority of the voters is still present. It is I think a legitimate right of the people. I, therefore, submit that wherever possible, elections should be held. The case regarding the places from where majority of the voters has migrated, can be treated on a different footing. As regards the influx of refugees, I would like to point out that if an election for a labour seat could be held, there is no reason why elections for the vacancies caused in the Small Towns Committees and for that matter village Panchayats, cannot be held. Even if a number of voters have migrated out of the Province from a particular place, it does not mean that the remaining population should also be denied the right of franchise. By doing so, the Government will be undermining the reputation of the august Organisation to which it belongs. With these words, Sir, I would request the hon. Minister to withdraw this Bill or at least if passed it should be sparingly acted upon.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha (Jullundar, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I have not much to say except supporting my hon. Friend Shri Ranbir Singh Mehta.

Mr. Speaker : If you have to repeat what Shri Ranbir Singh Mehta has already said, you need not speak.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : I want to make only one observation in this connection. It is this, that the position to-day in the districts is not very much changed since the withdrawal of the British from our country. The Deputy Commissioners and Commissioners still take into their confidence their old flatterers and henchmen while even the Ministers have not much influence over them. If these officials are empowered to nominate people to the committees, they will nominate their own camp followers and not the right type of persons having national outlook. With these words, I oppose this Bill although I am not allowed to do so.

Minister for Finance (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I have listened very attentively to to-day's debate, although I regret having been absent yesterday. During the last Budget Session, the Assembly passed an Act whereby the Government could fill in, by nomination, such vacancies in the Local Bodies as were caused on account of the removal of certain members.

But the vacancies caused on account of death or resignation could not be filled in by that method. The Government was faced with such a position when a Member of a Committee tendered his resignation. The Legal Remembrancer and the Secretary to the Government advised us that legally the Government could not fill in by nomination vacancies caused on account of death or resignation. Hence arose the need to meet this contingency. We thought that to fill in a vacancy caused by death or resignation through election would be inconsistent with the procedure already adopted in regard to vacancies caused on account of the removal of members. The reason for this measure, as alleged by some of the hon. Members, is not that the voters have migrated from the Province, but because the Government wanted to extend the right of franchise to all adults, men as well as women. The Provincial Government is getting the voters' lists for Assembly elections prepared on the basis of adult franchise. It would not have been advisable to prepare new lists for elections to the small Towns Committees. The same lists could be used for both the purposes. But as ill luck would have it, the Constituent Assembly took more time than we expected, in passing the relevant sections of the Draft Constitution. It has, however, now passed that elections to the Provincial Assemblies would be held on the basis of adult franchise. According to the new Constitution, there will be no nominated members, with the exception of Harijans, in the legislatures. Even the Ex-Officio Members will not have the right to vote ; they shall act only in advisory capacity. The voters' lists for elections to the Assembly, when ready, could be used for elections to the Local Bodies. It is hoped that the elections, under the new Constitution, will be held within six or eight months. It is, therefore, not advisable that bye-elections should be held for such a short period. And then a bye-election must take at least two months. Thus there would not be left much time between such a bye-election and the elections to be held under the new Constitution. The holding of a bye-election at this time would only mean unnecessary expenditure for the candidates. On the other hand, if such short term vacancies are filled in by nomination, the work of the Committees will not suffer in any way, nor is there any question of debarring people from the exercise of their right of vote. As a matter of fact, this provision should have been made in the Act when it was passed during the last Session. But since this could not be done at that time, the present Bill has to be brought forth. The arguments put forth against this Act at the time of its passing in October last are being repeated now. I may, however, point out that, if any hon. Member wants to say anything against the Act, he should bring forth an Amending Bill. Under the present circumstances, these arguments are uncalled for.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar (Non-Union Labour) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I would like to say a few words by way of conveying to the Government the feelings of the people in the matter of nominations. The principle of nominations was accepted by this House in November last on account of certain abnormal circumstances in the Province. This was intended to be a temporary affair, and to be applied to a limited extent. But experience has now shown that the public is not happy over this thing, and there is a strong feeling of dissatisfaction against the manner in which

[Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar]

these nominations have been made, so much so that people have started accusing the Ministers of favouritism and partisanship, and it has become a public scandal. As a matter of principle the people should be given maximum opportunities to choose their own representatives. But the Government, I am sorry to say, is depriving them even of that little right they already had. People have got every right to be satisfied in these matters specially on the occasions, when the Government wants to act arbitrarily. I am extremely sorry to say that the labour has been almost unrepresented in the Municipal Committee Towns. But, so far as my knowledge goes, not a single person has been nominated, who should belong to the labouring classes.

Minister for Labour : You were also a member.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : I was nominated by the pre-partition Government, and not for this reason that the minister-in-charge then, wanted to give any representation to the labour. Again I am strongly opposed to the members of this Assembly being nominated. It is not proper that they should get themselves nominated to the Local Bodies. The persons, not residing at a place, should not be nominated to the muncipal committee of that locality. They do not do full justice to their work. In the District Boards and Municipal Committees there is a general complaint that the members do not put their heart in their day to-day duties. I have heard people say that the members are often inattentive and uninterested. When powers are bestowed upon them why should they not utilize them for the good of the people ? With these words I support the Bill but at the same time I hope that at the time of exercising the power of nominations, which is sought to be taken by this legislation, full regard will be paid to what I have said. With these words I resume my seat.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore city, General, Women, Urban) (*Hindustani*) : In the days of British Rule all of us were opposed to the practice of making nominations to our governing bodies. Congressmen and other progressive elements were loud in giving vent to their feelings. On this point, those of us who are now occupying high positions in public life or are Ministers and other important functionaries were then quite clear on this subject; every one opposed nominations. But I am at a loss to know why there appears to be a change in their outlook. I cannot understand why this Bill has been brought forward. The argument that is put forth to justify this, is that due to partition bulk of the population (*i. e.* Muslims) has left East Punjab and so it is not possible to hold elections. But since it has been found possible to hold elections to the labour seat why should there be any difficulty in the case of District Board's and Municipal Committee's Elections? I know about Jullundur. Many labour voters from that place have gone to the United Provinces or Pakistan and about half the voters cannot be traced. What is true of Jullundur is also true of other

places and so in spite of all this, it was deemed proper to hold elections to the labour seat. There appears to be no reason why elections to the District Boards and Municipal Committees cannot be held.

Minister For Finance ; May I know, Sir what is the point ? Is the hon. Lady Member criticising the principle of nomination when a member of a small town committee resigns or dies or is she discussing general election ?

Mr. Speaker : Under the existing Act, the Commissioner has the power to nominate a person in a vacancy caused by the removal of a member of a small town committee. Under the amending Bill that is now before the House, power is sought to be given to the Commissioner to nominate a person in a vacancy caused by the death or resignation of any member of a small town committee. Since you want to vest more powers in the Commissioner and since the principle of nomination is involved, I think what the hon. Lady Member is saying can be allowed.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of order, Sir. When the hon. Lady Member was in possession of the House, the hon. Minister for Finance got up on a point of information and not on a point of order. Is a Minister entitled to interrupt a member on a point of information ?

Minister For Finance ; It is perfectly in order for any Member to ask the hon. Speaker whether an hon. Member who is speaking is relevant or not.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I want your ruling on this point, Sir, whether a member has got a right to stand up and interrupt another hon. Member on a point of information ?

Mr. Speaker : If the hon. Member in possession of the House gives way, any other hon. Member can rise on a point of information. In this particular case, when the Finance Minister got up, the hon. Lady Member gave way.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Sir, I was saying that we cannot justify nominations by any canons whatsoever. It is in the fitness of things that elections should be held to such important bodies as Municipal Committees and District Boards. These bodies are nearer to the people than such bodies as the Legislative Assembly, etc. People have more to do with them. The important problems like sanitation, health and education are the concern of these bodies. Thus there appears to be all the more reason to democratize these institutions. We should not turn the wheel back. But in spite of what I have said, I know that this Bill will be passed. Powers of nominations will be taken over by the Government. So under the circumstances, I can but hope that the Government will be wise enough to exercise these powers cautiously. N cessary instructions should be issued so that prudent use of these powers is made in the interest of efficiency and smooth working and as far as possible arrangements for early elections should be made.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Small Towns (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Now the House will conisder the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSES 2 AND 3

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Finance : Sir, I move—

That the Punjab Small Towns (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Small Towns (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be passed.

Sardar Sajjan Singh (Patti, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, although the title of the Bill under consideration has the words 'small towns' in its beginning, I do not think the hon. Members will consider it to be an insignificant Bill. It is an important measure. I am sorry to note that at present, the power of nominations is often misused. At many places for example in Sur Singh Town of Patti Tahsil no nominations have been made since 1947. In My opinion special instructions should be issued to the effect that such powers may be properly exercised.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, although we have passed all the clauses of the Bill, yet at the time of the third reading of this measure, I want to make a few observations with a view to impressing upon the Government the necessity of realising their responsibilities. Well, Sir, time and again we have been told by the Government that they have planned to widen the franchise and that fresh elections would be held on the basis of adult franchise. But may I ask whether it is fair on the part of the Government that while promising to give one rupee to the public, they should take away eight annas from them which they already possess ? This is exactly what is sought to be achieved by this measure. On the one hand adult franchise

is being promised and on the other all canons of Local Self-Government are being thrown to the winds by resorting to the principle of nomination under this Bill. It would be no exaggeration if I say that, by legislating this measure, the Government are flouting the public opinion. I, therefore, feel that Government would be well-advised to respect the susceptibilities of the people in this matter But if it is bent upo 'nomination' it should do so after consulting representative bodies like the Congress Committees. I need not say that the success which this premier organisation has achieved recently in connection with the Labour seat bye-election, is indicative and a proof positive of the fact that it is above communalism or sectarianism and fully enjoys the confidence of the public. So in matters of nomination the advice of the Congress Committees will prove very helpful to the Government. But it is a thousand pities that the hon. Minister has removed certain elected members of a certain Local Body...........

Mr. Speaker : That is not under consideration.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : But all the same it is a fact. Any how, my point is that now when the Government are arming themselves with the powers of nominating members to Local Bodies in certain casual vacancies, they should make such nominations very carefully and in full realisation of their responsibilities. They should refrain from nominating those persons who play the sycophants. They should not treat these vacancies as their personal property and fill them as they like in utter disregard of the public feelings. I would sound a note of warning to the Government that they would be tarnishing the fair name of that august Organisation to which they belong, if they make nominations on personal grounds. With these words I close my remarks.

Sardar Shiv Singh (Gurdaspur North, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I too, at the last stage of this Bill, wish to impress upon the Government that while making nominations they should see that the powers acquired under this measure are not abused. I think they would be well-advised to consult representative bodies like the Congress Committees and panchayats at the time of nominating members to the local bodies. This would help Government in securing right type of men who would be in the enjoyment of public confidence. In this connection I am reminded of a mistake committed by the Government while nominating a gentleman to a local body in the Gurdaspur District. He has been put there as a representative of the refugees settled there. But in fact he has been a resident of Pathankot for the last thirty years. Besides, at the time of partition of the Punjab, while we were making every endeavour to get Gurdaspur district included in the Indian Dominion, this gentleman in league with one Saligram tried his utmost to bring it under Pakistan. I fail to understand as to why the Government ignored capable and highly educated persons, including members of the Scheduled castes, and nominated this gentleman who has lost confidence of the people. This action of the Government has shaken the confidence of the public in it. I would request the Government to avoid repetition of such things in future, and thus to rehabilitate its confidence in the people. I further hope that deserving and fit persons would be nominated to the local bodies.

Minister for Finance (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava): Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. Members who have given us their valuable advice and very useful suggestions in the matter. But one thing I have not been able to understand is this. As you are aware, Sir. the Province is fortunate in having one party Government and therefore, any measure that is brought forward in this House, is discussed before-hand in the party meeting. When this is so, I am simply surprised to see certain hon. Members stand up and insinuate that Ministers treat appointments arising out of this measure, namely nominations, as their personal property. It does not lie in their mouth to say so. Either they do not understand themselves or the Ministers are above their power of comprehension. I think the difficulty with them is that unless the hon. Minister acts in accordance with their desire, he cannot be considered to have acted in the performance of his duties fairly and justly. They perhaps think that the Ministers do not possess any sense of proportion or equity. It simply pains me to see this state of affairs.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal: May I ask Dr. Sahib one question ?

Minister for Finance: No, I do not give way. I know what the hon. Member wants to ask. In the opinion of the hon. Member Government would be acting rightly only when they nominate such persons as would help in their elections to president or vice-presidentship.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal: It is strange that the hon. Minister is replying to a question which I have not asked.

Mr. Speaker: I would advise hon. Members to avoid all such reflections.

Minister for Finance: Now this Bill seeks power for nominations to casual vacancies in Small Town Committees, resulting from death, resignation or removal of a member, for a certain period which is not very long. Ordinarily the Commissioner is the nominating authority in Small Town Committees as well as second class municipalities, and he makes nominations in consultation with the Deputy Commissioner. Congress committees are also consulted in this matter. We know how in such mattres different groups vie with each other in supporting different candidates with a view to strengthening their own position. Although it is difficult to please everybody, yet the Government leaves no stone unturned in the performance of its duty conscientiously and makes nominations of persons who are considered fit for the purpose. But it is common practice with the dissident members that so long as power of this nature does not come into their hands, they dub the Government as guilty of favouritism and nepotism. I assure the House that Government are never actuated by personal motives. Whatever they do, they do in the best interests of the people. They always realise their responsibility towards the public and have always nominated and will nominate deserving and capable persons. With these words I hope the House will pass this measure without any further delay.

Mr Speaker: Question is—

That the Punjab Small Towns (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

CONSERVATION OF MANURE BILL.

Minister for Development (The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) : Sir, I introduce the East Punjab Conservation of Manure Bill.

Minister for Development (*Punjabi*) : I move—

That the East Punjab Conservation of Manure Bill be taken into consideration at once,

Sir, as a result of sub-division of lands of the East Punjab and their constant cropping, the soils have become greatly impoverished and yields of crops are normally much lower than those of foreign countries. Now with a view to meeting the deficit in our food production and also to give a fillip to the 'grow more food' campaign it is considered necessary that the soil be enriched either by the application of artificial fertilizers or by proper use of farm yard manure. Government is already incurring huge expenditure on the importation of artificial fertilizers. Government thought it fit to bring in legislation for the conservation of manure which is really the wealth of the Zamindars. In our Province manure is stored in the form of heaps in open ground. Some arrangements had, therefore, to be made to save the valuable ingredients of manure from getting spoiled by rain, sun, hot and dry wind and wind storms. Some step had also to be taken with a view to step-up food production. As the matter was very urgent and the Assembly was not in session, it was felt desirable to promulgate an Ordinance which is in the form of a Bill now before the House. This Ordinance would cease to operate at the expiration of 6 weeks from the re-assembly of the Legislature but it is necessary that the powers conferred by the Ordinance should be retained beyond this date. This Bill is being placed before the House with this object in view. I hope my hon. Friends would support it with all the emphasis at their command.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Conservation of Manure Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried

Mr. Speaker : The House will now consider the Bill clause by clause.

Clause 1

Sub-clauses (2) and (3).

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Sub-clauses (2) and (3) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 2

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) : I move—

That for the existing sub-clause (d) the following be substituted :—

(*d*) 'Deputy Commissioner' means the Deputy Commissioner of the District.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 3 AND 4

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 3 and 4 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 5

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) : I move—

That for the existing Sub-clause (2) the following be substituted :—

(2) If no Panchayat has been constituted for any notified area, the Deputy Commissioner shall establish for such area a Manure Conservation Committee appointing thereto such number of persons, not less than three as he may from time to time fix in this behalf.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 6

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) : Sir, I move—

That for the existing Sub-clause (2) the following be substituted :—

(2) The Chairman of the Committee established under Sub-section (2) of Section 5 shall be the person appointed as such by the Deputy Commissioner from among the Members of the Committee.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 6, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 7 TO 12.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 7 to 12 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 13

Mr. Speaker : Before I put clause 13 to the House, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister-in-Charge of the Bill to the following lines. It is mentioned in the clause—

'If the breach is a continuing breach, with a further fine which may extend to four rupees for every day after the first during which the breach continues'.

As I understand from the other clauses of the Bill the procedure would be that the Government would appoint a committee for a particular area and that committee would ask the inhabitants of that area to conserve manure to a certain extent. If a person in that

area does not conserve manure to the extent ordered by the committee, then the committee would give him a notice allowing him a reasonable time to comply with the directions of the Committee. If even then the man does not fulfil the requirements of the order then a breach would occur and the person would be fined Rs. 25. And if even then the man does not make up the deficiency and conserve manure to the extent to which the committee had asked him to do then the breach would be a continuing breach. Does it mean that the breach will continue till the time the deficiency is made up by the person concerned ? Will he be continued to be fined Rs. 4 per day till the time he makes up the shortage ? I do not want to say anything against the drafting of the Bill. But I feel that after the word 'first' there should have been the word 'day'.

Premier : I think it is all right.

Mr. Speaker : I wanted to point it out. If you want me to put it to the House as it is I have no objection. Question is—

That clause 13 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 14

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) : I move—

That for the existing clause the following be substituted :

Supervision of the proceedings of the Committee by the Deputy Commissioner.

14 (1) The Deputy Commissioner may of his own motion or on an application of the party aggrieved, call for the records of any proceedings whereby any person has been convicted by the Committee under Section 13 and may cancel or modify any order of conviction but not so as to enhance the penalty.

(2) A fee of Rs. 2 shall be paid on every application.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 14, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried

CLAUSE 15

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) : Sir, I move—

That in line 1 for the word 'Director' the words 'Deputy Commissioner' be substituted.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 15, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 16 TO 18

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 16 to 18 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 19

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh): Sir, I move—

That for the existing clause the following be substituted :—

(19) The Deputy Commissioner may by written order delegate any functions under this Act by name or by designation of office to any Revenue Assistant or Tahsildar.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That clause 19, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 20 to 24

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That clauses 20 to 24 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

SCHEDULE

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Schedule be the Schedule of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-clause (1)

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That Sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Development (The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa): Sir, I beg to move—

That the East Punjab Conservation of Manure Bill, as amended, be passed.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Conservation of Manure Bill, as amended, be passed.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal (Hansi, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, It is a matter for great pleasure that a Bill of this nature, has been brought before the House with the object of increasing the agricultural produce of this Province. But I feel that the mere enactment of such beneficent legislation or for that matter issuing of long statements in the press would not rouse the Indian peasant from his apathy into which he has fallen owing to the neglect and indifference of the Government. The farmers of this Province, nay even the farmers of the whole country, are painfully aware of the fact that they are not being accorded the treatment that they deserve. It is a pity, Sir, that we have forgotten what our ancestors strongly believed and had their faith in the age old maxim that "agriculture is the noblest

of professions' trade the middling, service the worthless, no better than beggary, the lowest of professions." Thus when our country Bharatvarsha was in its heyday, the people whose pursuit in life was agriculture, were held in great esteem and were universally honoured. Things are exactly the contrary to-day. Ancient and time-honoured ideals have been forgotten. They do not command the same respect to-day as in days of yore. They have a feeling, an uneasy feeling, that they are not getting proper compensation for their hard labour and the money that they invest in agriculture. Sir, what I want to urge is that mere lip sympathy with the farmers would not do, nor would 'paper business' alone help us in increasing the produce. Where it is necessary to enact this measure it is equally neccessary to ensure that it does not remain a dead letter. Its success will depend on the manner in which it is put into effect. It has yet to be seen whether this measure was brought before the House just for showing off or with a real and earnest desire to improve the conditions of agriculture in the Province. If the Government is really prompted by the latter, much more will have to be done than the mere passing of this measure. It is essential for the success of this scheme that village people should be made to realise the importance and significance of conservation of manure in terms of national interest. They must be educated and persuaded to act in accordance with the proposals made in this measure in the interest of the country. It is also equally imperative that their suspicions and apprehensions should be removed. The apprehension lurking in their minds that the urbanites are out to cheat them must be eradicated. They must be given the status that is their due, with an assurance that they will be given proper compensation for their hard labour. Only then, would they be roused to greater activity and effort with a view to increasing the produce.

Sir, as you are aware some such measures aiming at the improvement of agriculture were enacted in the last session as well but the pity is that they have failed to achieve any practical result, for want of proper enforcement. I can say from personal experience, and without any fear of contradiction that in actual practice, none of these measures had much effect for the simple reason that they were not put into effect with any degree of earnestness. It would be useless to enact this measure, if it has also to meet the fate of its predecessors. I am afraid, this measure will also remain a dead letter and would not achieve the desired results. On the occasion of visits of high officers, things will be so managed as to give them the impression that the work of conservation of manure is being properly carried on, though in fact nothing serious would be attempted. When the Financial Commissioner happens to visit the village, a few pits will be improvised for his inspection and afterwards, things will go on as before. I may submit, Sir, that so long as the people do not feel that the proposed measure is for their real benefit and

4 P. M.

not merely to please the Government Officers to uphold their dignities and privileges it will be of little importance. The Government should assure the people that it has the good of people at heart and that the proposed measure will go a long way to benefit them considerably. With these remarks I commend the Bill for acceptance of the House.

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) (*Punjabi*) : Sir my hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal while commenting upon the Bill under consideration has remarked that all the measures of the Government calculated to better the lot of zamindars remain confined to the paper and are not given effect to. I would like to point out to the hon. Member that so far as this Bill is concerned the zamindars may be faced with the difficulty of getting land near the abadi for the conservation of manure. But it has been provided in the Bill that if any zamindar is not in possession of land he will submit an application to the Committee which would acquire land for him for this purpose. The Officers of the Agriculture Department will also tell what kind of manure should be conserved. This measure will bring about a colossal increase of national wealth as the proper use of manure will really be the most important source for the recuperation of the soil fertility.

Chaudhri Badlu Ram (Rohtak Central, General, Rural), (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I would submit on the basis of my experience that the Manure Conservation Committees that will be set up under the provisions of this Bill will not function properly as I have seen such committees that have been set up in my own village. Much is said about the formation of such committees and the powers delegated to them but these do not turn their attention to any constructive work in the rural areas for the well being of the rural masses. The Patwari of the ilaqa generally submits the names of some persons to work on these committees to the Deputy Commissioner. But in many cases I have seen that the members of the committees do not know that they have been appointed as such. The formation of such committees, therefore, remains only a constitutional procedure as these committees do not settle down to work earnestly. It will be remembered that the Consolidation of Land Holdings Act was passed in this Assembly last year but it has not been put into force and the condition remains precisely the same as before. If the Government had applied itself energetically to the task with a determined will, there is no reason why it could not have achieved the desired object. But the pity is that all things intended to be done under the Act only remain on paper and are not implemented. So far as this Bill is concerned, the arrangement for the conservation of manure cannot be made unless the Government provide the people in such area with land necessary for the aforesaid purpose. If the zamindars are not in possession of land for this purpose they cannot conserve manure. Their difficulties are genuine. But they will have to face these difficulties by virtue of this Bill.

I have to submit one thing more in this connection. It appears that at the time of drafting this Bill the Government did not take into view that cow-dung cakes were very essential for the domestic use of every zamindar. These serve very useful purpose as they are capable of being used as substitute for fuel. I would therefore, suggest that Government should take all factors into consideration before enforcing this measure strictly in the Province. In the end, I would request the Government that if this measure is passed it should be put into force forthwith as otherwise it will be of no use bringing it on the Statute Book.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepur, General, Rural, (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I fully endorse the views expressed by my hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal in the House. I also congratulate the hon. Minister for Development on bringing this measure before the House. If this measure is put into force, I feel confident that the question of increasing productive capacity which goes to the root of all problem, can be solved and India can stand on her own feet. If this measure is enacted into law the responsibility of working out the provisions of the Bill primarily falls upon the administration of the Province. Its results would depend upon the way in which the administration would do its job. I would, therefore, request the Government that if this measure is passed by the Assembly it should be put into force at once. After looking at the way in which other legislative measures had been put in a cold storage, I am led to believe that the present measure may meet the same fate. I remember that when the Consolidation of Land Holdings Act was passed I shared the optimism of the hon. Minister of Development that it would be possible to put into force the provisions of the Act within the shortest possible time. But I am sorry to say that the progress of the Governmental machinery in this direction has been very slow. My own feeling is that the tendency of the Government officers who are engaged in the Department is to drift away the matters rather than to deal with the problem promptly and effectively. Under such circumstances, if any measure is passed we cannot say with certainty how it will be worked out in the end and it is not easy to guess how and when that will come about. The Government should, therefore, fix a target date so that people may reckon on a day when the proposed measure will be put into force. I fully appreciate that the refugee problem is at the root of the question of putting the Act into force but the Government should fix a date by which it would be able to solve all such difficulties. If there is no such attempt on the part of the Government to have an organised programme, I am afraid, we shall not be able to make that degree of progress that is required of us. I have seen that there is considerable slowing down of our administrative system and the Government officers are always after upholding their dignities and privileges rather than thinking of their devotion to duty. Therefore, what is urgently required is to have a good and honest administration. Moreover, I would like to submit that people should be taught to work in a cooperative spirit with the Agriculture Deparrment and that they should be educated by means of propaganda not to waste the cow-dung by utilising it in a dried form for their Hukka which is otherwise so essential for the recuperation of the soil fertility. I hope that the hon. Minister for Development who has sponsored this Bill will make it a point to put into force the provisions of the Bill when it is passed by the Assembly. I request the Government to take steps to see that this measure is immediately and properly enforced. No doubt the hon. Minister concerned is not in the habit of talking much and I have reasons to suppose that he will make this loss up by real action. However I will ask him not to follow in the footsteps of his predecessor who passed measures all right, but never bothered to put them through with any appreciable speed. I want that he should make it a point to impress on his Department that they should do

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

their utmost to give a practical shape to the provisions of this Bill with as great a speed as is possible.

Pandit Jiwan Lal (South West Gurgaon, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I wish to say a few words about conservation of manure. I am in a position to say that in Tehsil Palwal I have been responsible for construction of about two thousand and five hundred pits for purposes of conserving manure. Each zamindar had two pits, one was used for decomposing manure and the other for storing it. By virtue of this arrangement we doubled our produce. Our lands began to yield twice as much of sugarcane and wheat as was being realised from other lands. I have absolutely no doubt that the idea of conserving manure is very useful but it is very difficult to translate it into action unless our programme of consolidating lands has taken its final shape. In the absence of consolidation the scheme before as is not likely to succeed and all money spent in this connection will go waste. It is therefore essential that the work of consolidation should be carried out with all possible speed. I suggest that to begin with work should be started in one district as an experiment. In my opinion it would be better if this privilege goes to District Gurgaon as it is a district in which Mr. Brayne worked for full nine years and where his advice is still being followed with unaltered zeal. I am prepared to go to the extent of saying that the consolidation scheme should be immediately put through even if we have to do it at the cost of our Rehabilitation Department. Consolidation will result in numerous advantages for our people. This will make available to us in every village enough place for schools, play grounds, hospitals and other useful institutions. I I wholeheartedly agree with my hon. freind Chaudhri Badlu Ram when he says that schemes should not be allowed to remain only on paper. A scheme is only useful if it is properly carried out. So if we desire that the present scheme may become fruitful we should do all we can to start the work of consolidation of land in right earnest.

Minister for Development (The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I am extremely greatful to my hon. Friends as they have been good enough to draw my attention to certain obstacles which might stand in our way. So far as the principle of the Bill is concerned we all agree that our vast treasures in the shape of manure should not be allowed to go waste and I shall certainly see that this scheme is not allowed only to remain on paper but is properly carried out. My Friends need not have any fears on this account. My hon. Friend Chaudhri Budlu Ram remarked that the Government was becoming cruel to the *hukah* smokers as they will not be able to use dung for making fire. I might tell him that this act on the part of Government would surely prove a blessing for him in disguise as he would be saved from the vice of smoking.

Next comes the question of boiling milk. I am in a position to say on the authority of Mr. Brayne that there are many other substances which are as good as dung for purposes of boiling milk. I suggest that people should have recourse to those forms of fuel. As for the consolidation of lands I must admit that owing to

some unavoidable circumstances, Government has not been able to undertake this work. The Consolidation Act has undoubtedly been in the cold storage for some time. The reason is that the whole of our trained staff, for example the village Patwaris and other Officials have been busy with the work of allotment in the Rehabilitation Department. It appears as if that will be spared by the Rehabilitation Department in the month o Novemher and of course from that time onwards no time will be lost in giving effect to the Consolidation Act.

Mention has been made of fixing a target for the execution of the scheme. Well, our target is 1951 as by that time we have got to be self-sufficient in the matter of food. If we do not act on these measures, we cannot become self-sufficient. But I must make bold to say that this Government is very earnest about this matter and this is evident from the vigour with which it is pursuing its measures relating to weeds, pests and seeds. It will not be gainsaid that a very good quality of seeds is being at present supplied by Government. Some of the hon. Members have expressed a fear that this scheme like some others might remain on paper. I assure them that the Government will try its utmost to give effect to it. We shall form committees in the villages who would see that all those who fail to act in accordance with the provisions of the land are properly punished. No doubt the hon. Members themselves are in a position to help us a very good deal. They have influence in their respective constituencies and the propaganda made by them is sure to produce useful results.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the East Punjab Conservation of Manure Bill, as amended, be passed.

The motion was carried.

RECLAMATION OF LAND BILL.

Minister for Development (The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) : Sir, I introduce the East Punjab Reclamation of Land Bill.

Minister for Development (*Punjabi*) : I move—

That the East Punjab Reclamation of Land Bill be taken into consideration at once.

In November 1948 the Government of India forwarded proposals to the Provincial Governments to bring under the plough about sixty lakh acres of land which was lying waste to make the Grow More Food compaign a success. The Provincial Governments were asked to reclaim this land and arrange for its cultivation. As about 25 lakh acres of such waste land is to be found in the East Punjab which belongs to private owners who out of sheer apathy do not make use of it Govenment has thought it fit to take over this land for purposes of reclamation and cultivation. As such land belongs mostly to private owners, it was necessary to promulgate an Ordinance, so that there might be no difficulty in carrying on the task of reclamation. As the Assembly was not in Session there was no alternative but to issue an Ordinance, which is now proposed to be enacted as an Act of the Legislature.

[Minister of Development]

Some persons think that after reclamation the land may be acquired by the Government and the ownership right of some persons may be affected. I wish to make it clear that if the Government decides to acquire land it will do so on payment of compensation. It has been said that some people own very small areas of land and if those are acquired by the Government, they will be left without any means of livelihood. In this connection, I may point out that the Government does not propose to acquire all the land belonging to a person. By reclamation and cultivation the price of land would appreciate. To cover the cost of this process the Government will retain a portion of the reclaimed land or will charge the expenses from the owners. In the case of land belonging to refugees, it will either be returned to them or other plots would be purchased for them with the price of the improved land. In the case of big land owners the Government will retain small portion of their land to meet the betterment charges and will return them the rest. The land left with the Government in this manner will be given as compensation to those persons whose lands are affected by the construction of canals in connection with Bhakra Scheme or by the site of the new Capital. We are faced with the problem of food-shortage and in order to become self-sufficient in that respect we have to carry on the 'grow more food' compaign. For that purpose, it is essential that the Government should bring barren lands under cultivation. The present Bill has been brought forward to attain that object.

Mr. Speaker: motion moved—

That the East Punjab Reclamation of Land Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal (Hansi, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I am not opposed to this Bill so far as its principles are concerned, but I wish to draw the attention of the Government to one or two points.

Undoubtedly a large portion of land is lying uncultivated, but before bringing forward this Bill the Government should have given notice to the land-owners that if they did not cultivate their lands within a certain period, these would be acquired by the Government. It is with definite purpose that some land is left uncultivated. If the Government had announced its scheme in advance, all the waste land could have been cultivated. As you are aware, Sir, I belong to that part of the Province where cattle breeding is one of the chief professions of people. For breeding cattle, it is necessary to have grazing land. The use of land for grazing is as important as its cultivation for growing food. Whereas the country, needs food grains for its inhabitants it also needs cattle for the process of growing those food grains. It will take long before we can take to the use of tractors for cultivation and we will have to depend on cattle for ploughing, etc, In our country cultivation with the help of tractors is not likely to succeed everywhere. If cattle cannot be bred properly the health of our people will become weak and it will be a great national loss. I, therefore, suggest that in this Bill there should be some saving clauses for those areas which produce good cattle.

Another thing which I wish to point out is this. The running of Demonstration farms by the Government must have proved that such experiments are not worth their expense. What is the use of reclaiming and cultivating waste land, if after spending thousands of rupees there is an yield of only a few maunds of food grains. Nobody will approve of such an enterprise. It is no good doing things for the sake of propaganda only. It has been noticed that in some cases large sums were spent with the result that food grains worth only a few rupees were produced. What will the country gain by such a process ? If you cannot increase the production of food grains in proportion to the amount spent, it is no use adopting such schemes. Each member of a farmer's family works on land the whole day long. What will the Officers of Government do for cultivating land ? They will merely charge travelling allowance for going from one place to another. The Government will have to incur heavy expenses on labour required in the fields. In view of all these things, I request the Government to examine whether the proposition it has before it is economically sound.

The Government, I think, should not hurry through this measure, because it requires very close consideration. In the first place, an Ordinance should have been issued regarding the survey of all waste land, which can be reclaimed. Then the owners of that waste land should have been given notice of the fact that, if they would not cultivate that land, it would be acquired by the Government for the purpose of reclamations. The cultivators would naturally have brought that land under cultivation under fear of losing it. The purpose of the Government would also have been achieved without incurring any expenditure. The object of this Bill, I am sure, is not to deprive the cultivators of their land, but it is to promote the grow-more-food compaign. Even if the Government had to employ the other method, it should have given due notice to the owners of such waste land requiring them to bring it under cultivation within a specified period, failing which their land could be taken over by the Government. This is a very delicate matter and should not be handled in haste since it concerns the rights of the people. It should, therefore, be seen that this measure does not create ill-will for nothing among the public against the Government. The loss in that case would outweigh the gain which is problematical. I hope that the Government will consider these observations of mine before passing this Bill.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the East Punjab Reclamation of Land Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-clause (2).

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Sub-clause (2) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 2

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I move—

That in part (e) after the word 'records', the following words be added : 'and such *Ghairmumkin* lands as are reclaimable'.

Sir, I want that the term 'waste land' should also include in its definition such land which has been rendered unfit for cultivation due to streamlets (*chos*) in the Hoshiarpur District. If the Agriculture Department were to take charge of this land, vast areas now lying waste can become productive. This land is named Ghairmumkin land in the revenue records. I, therefore, submit that the definition of 'waste land' should also include this 'Ghairmumkin land'.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved --

That in part (e) after the word 'records', the following words be added : 'and such *Ghairmumkin* lands as are reclaimable'.

Minister for Development : I accept the amendment.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 3 TO 10

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 3 to 10 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-clause (1).

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Development (The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) : Sir, I move—

That the East Punjab Reclamation of Land Bill, as amended, be passed.

The motion was carried.

REQUISITIONING OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (TEMPORARY POWERS) (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Premier (The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) : Sir, I introduce the East Punjab Requisitioning of Immovable Property (Temporary Powers) (Amendment) Bill.

Premier : I move—

That the East Punjab Requisitioning of Immovable Property (Temporary Powers) (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 2 AND 3

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Premier : Sir, I move—

That the East Punjab Requisitioning of Immovable Property (Temporary Powers) (Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p. m. on Thursday, 13th October 1949.

East Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

13TH OCTOBER 1949

Vol. IV—No. 3

OFFICIAL REPORT

CONTENTS

Thursday, 13th October 1949.

Printed at O. K. Printing Press, Simla 1950

Price Rs. 2-8-0

EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Fourth Session of the 1st East-Punjab Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 13th October 1949.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, at 2 P. M. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

IRON SCANDAL

* 1258. **Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha**: Will the hon. Minister for Civil Supplies, Electricity and Industries be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the total number and names of persons involved in iron scandal against whom investigations have been made so far ;

(*b*) the total number of M. L. As. against whom investigations have so far been made in the iron scandal cases ;

(*c*) how many of them proved guilty ?

The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh: (*a*) 116. A list giving 98 names of firms involved in the iron and steel scandal is laid on the table. † The remaining names are being collected.

(*b*) Seven.

(*c*) None so far.

PERMITS FOR IRON AND STEEL

* 1267. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth**: Will the hon. Minister for Civil Supplies, Electricity and Industries be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the total number of permits of iron and steel issued by the East Punjab Government ;

(*b*) the total number of such permits issued to M. L. As. of the East Punjab Legislative Assembly with their names ;

(*c*) the total number of arrests made in this connection with the number of cases pending in Law Courts ?

The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh: (*a*) 3,468 permits in all were issued by the East Punjab Government from 1st January 1948 to 5th May 1949, and 2,167 permits were issued from 23rd June 1949 to 5th October 1949.

(*b*) Nine permits in all were issued in the names of the M. L. As. of the East Punjab Legislative Assembly as under :—

Ch. Sunder Lal	4
Shree Prabodh Chandra	5

(*c*) 119 persons have so far been arrested and 63 cases are pending in Court in this connection.

†Kept in the library.

WHEAT SYNDICATES

* **1277 Sardar Rattan Singh Gill :** Will the hon. Minister for Civil Supplies, Electricity and Industries be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether any amount is paid by the Government to different Wheat Syndicates under the Wheat Procurment Scheme as dues of the station brokers and levy by the railway staff ; if so, the total amount thereof ;

(*b*) whether the Government has made certain that the amounts thus paid by it are actually paid to the railway staff ;

(*c*) whether this payment to the railway staff is still being made ;

(*d*) the name and the designation of the authority who recommonded the inclusion of this item in the pro-forma of incidental charges ;

(*e*) the name and designation of the authority who sanctioned in the inclusion of this item in the pro-forma ;

(*f*) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter ?

The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh : (*a*) Government is allowing to the Pacca Arahtis Association set up under the Wheat Monopoly Precurement Scheme station brokerage at the rate of Re. 1-9-0 per hundred bags, paid by them to the station broker who arranges for the watch and ward of goods while they are on the station platform and also books them when wagons are available. Nothing is being allowed to them on account of any illegal levy by the railway staff.

(*b, c, d, e* and *f*) The question does not arise.

RICE DEALERS' GROUPS AT MOGA.

***1279. Sardar Rattan Singh Gill** : Will the hon. Minister for Civil Supplies, Electricity and Industries be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether any rice dealers' groups have been formed at Moga under the orders of the Government; if so, whether it was the intention of the Government to permit the inclusion of new dealers in very rare cases ;

(*b*) the number of old dealers and new dealers separately at Moga ;

(*c*) whether he is aware of the fact that quite a fair number of the new dealers at Moga are *Kacha Arhtis* who act as Zamindars' agents in the sale of paddy ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the District Food Controller, Ferozepore had announced in the beginning that no *Kacha Arhtis* would be permitted to join the groups as that would prejudice the rights of the Zamindars for whom these *Arhtis* act as agents ;

(*e*) what led the District Food Controller, Ferozepore to alter his decision at the final stage ;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that an equal opportunity was given to all the *Kacha Arhtis* at Moga to join the groups ; if so,

what action the Government propose to take to set the matter right ?

The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Number of old dealers........28

Number of new authorisations........5

(*c*) None of the new dealers included is a *Kacha Arhti*, though 2 of them have been doing both *Pacca* and *Kacha Arhti* business ;

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) and (*f*) Do not arise in view of (*c*) and (*d*) above.

DAMAGE DONE TO CROPS BY HAIL-STORM IN CERTAIN AREA OF AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

***1136. Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur.** Will the hon. Minister for Land Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware of the fact that a severe hailstorm visited some areas of the Amritsar distrsct during this year ;

(*b*) the names of the villages where crops have been damaged as a result thereof ;

(*c*) the estimate of the damage in each of the villages referred to above ;

(*d*) what relief, if any, does the Government propose to afford to the agriculturists of these areas ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 1. Ikalgadda.

2. Mianwind.
3. Jowindpur.
4. Takhtu Chak.
5. Jalalabad.
6. Jati Umrao.
7. Sunchra.
8. Hardosani.
9. Bhootiwind.
10. Fazalpur.
11. Sayedpur.
12. Alowal.

(*c*) The first three villages were damaged completely, oNs. 4 and 5 severly and the remaining villages partially.

(*d*) Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 10,000 as gratuitous relief and Rs. 5,000 taccavi advances.

OCCUPANT OF QAZI MAHBUB ALAM'S KOTHI, JULLUNDUR.

*1158. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Land Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the name of the person who is occupying Qazi Mahbub Alam's Kothi, situated near the Railway Good's Office, Jullundur City, together with the date of his occupation ;

(*b*) whether the occupant is a refugee ; if not, how he managed to take possession thereof ;

(*c*) the date of his occupation of the above Kothi ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the occupant has been using the land and the garden attached to the Kothi, since his occupation ;

(*e*) the area of the land and the garden separately ;

(*f*) the rent of the Kothi, land and the garden fixed separately by the Custodian for the year 1947-48, 1948-49 and 1949-50, respectively ;

(*g*) whether any rent of the aforesaid Kothi, Garden and land has been realised ; if so, the total amount thereof ;

(*h*) the dates on which the first and the last payments were made ;

(*i*) whether it is a fact that delay occurred in the recovery of the rent ;

(*j*) whether the garden and the land were put to the public auction or given to the occupant on evaluation.

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) :

(*a*) Master Kabul Singh, Gobindpuri, M. L. A., President of the Municipal Committee, Jullundur City. Since 23rd September 1947.

(*b*) No. The occupant is not a refugee. The said Kothi was requisitioned for him by the District Magistrate.

(*c*) 23rd September 1949.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Agricultural land .. 85 Kanals 15 Marlas
Garden .. 32 Kanals 10 Marlas ;

(*f*) (*i*) The rent of the Kothi fixed by Custodian is Rs. 420 per annum.

(*ii*) The rent of the garden is Rs. 1,000 per annum according to Property Tax.

(*iii*) The usual rent assessed on the agricultural land was Rs. 254-12-3. Recoveries were made as follows :—

Kharif 1947	The land remained unallotted.
Rabi 1948	Rs. 442-4-6 were realised from Master Kabul Singh treating him to be in unauthorised possession of the land.

Kharif 1948 and Rabi 1949	Rs. 254-12-3 have been realised.
Kharif 1949	This lease was cancelled on the ground, that he was not a refugee and it was given to some one who was entitled on rent fixed by the Government, *i. e.*, 12 times the land revenue.

(*g*) As informed by the District Rent Officer, Jullunder, the following amounts were realised from the occupant :—

		Rs.	a.	p.
18th May 1949	..	1,000	0	0
1st June 1949	..	1,492	13	0
20th August 1949	..	236	12	0
Total	..	2,729	9	0

(*h*) 18th May 1949 and 20th August 1949.

(*i*) No delay.

(*j*) The agricultural land and garden were not put to auction. Tenders were however invited for leasing out this agricultural land for Kharif 1947, but no one came forward. The evacuee area within urban limits everywhere was allotted according to Government instructions and was not put to auction.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state if this Kothi was requisitioned by the Government ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Master Kabul Singh, rendered useful service during the days of disturbances in 1947. The District Magistrate under an order of the hon. Premier requisitioned that Kothi for Master Kabul Singh in the interest of essential services.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Why was Master Kabul Singh allowed to retain that house even after the end of the disturbances ?

Parliamentary Secretary : He was allowed to do so because he was then appointed a Parliamentary Secretary.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Why was he allowed to do so after he had ceased to be a Parliamentary Secretary ?

Parliamentary Secretary : He was then elected President of the Jullundur Municipality.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state if it is provided in the Municipal Act that the President must be provided a house ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The District Magistrate is empowered to requisition a house for the President.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : But why was he given a house which was evacuee property ?

Parliamentary Secretary: The District Magistrate could do so when there was no other house available.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state if Master Kabul Singh tried to find out some other accomodation in the mean time ?

Parliamentary Secretary: Yes, he is trying.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Did the Government ever write a D. O. to Master Kabul Singh on the subject ?

Parliamentary Secretary: Yes, it has been done and Master Kabul Singh is trying to find some other accomodation.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Did the Government issue any order to the District Authorities to get the house vacated ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state if the District Magistrate of any other District also requisitioned houses in this manner for a non-official person ?

Mr. Speaker: Disallowed. It is a general question.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state why this small thing is allowed to be the cause of a prolonged agitation among the public ?

Mr. Speaker: This is an expression of opinion.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know if the District Magistrate requisitioned that house in judicial or in executive capacity ?

Parliamentary Secretary: It is for the District Magistrate to say.

REFUGEE COLONY, KHANNA.

***1213. Metha Ranbir Singh**: Will the hon. Minister for Land Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the amount spent by the Government so far on the Refugee Colony of Khanna ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that no house has been occupied by any refugee or any other person on rent so far ;

(*c*) whether the Government has any Scheme to utilize such houses otherwise ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh):

(*a*) Rs. 11 Lakhs approximately.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The details of the built up houses disposed of at Khanna Refugee Colony are as under :—

1.	Total No. of built up houses	.. 202
2.	Sold in open auction to refugees	.. 28
3.	Reversed for various departments	... 72
4.	Reserved for displaced Military personnel	... 88
5.	Reserved for providing essential conveniences to residents	.. 14

Of these following is the detail of houses already occupied :—

1.	P. W. D.	... 25
2.	Public Health Department	... 5
3.	Police Post	... 1
		31

171 houses are lying vacant. The Agricultural Department and the Civil Supplies Department have requested to be allotted certain units and the matter is under consideration.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state as to when the scheme outlined by him regarding the allotment of houses to various Departments would be put into effect and the houses occupied by the allottees ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The Department is already doing that.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether the Government deputed any official to see the present condition of those houses ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The hon. Member, being a resident of the place can know better.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Does the Government realise that there has been a lot of public waste on that account ?

Mr. Speaker : It is again an expression of opinion.

DAMAGE TO CROPS BY WILD ANIMALS.

***1227. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib** : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state whether it is a fact that about 500 wild cows and bulls cause a great damage every year to the crops of the following villages of Gurgoan and Rohtak Districts :—

1. Jatoli, 2. Pataudi, 3. Rampur, 4. Chhaddan, 5. Khor, 6. Nannoo, 7. Mozabad, 8. Shahpur, 9. Madhaura, 10. Sherpur, 11. Hassat, 12. Haliaki, 13. Mangauti, 14. Chhamlerki, 15. Hachara, 16. Khandbola, 17. Tirpuri, 18. Jattola, 19. Karola, 20. Kheri, 21. Gogana, 22. Bahari, 23. Patoda, 24. Koha, 25. Kalanna, 26. Rattanthal, 27. Nahola, 28. Bassan and 29. Kosli ; if so, whether

[Shri Rattan Singh Tabib]

Government have taken any steps to protect the crops of the Zamindars of the above-mentioned villages so far ; if not, whether Government intend to take immediate steps to safeguard the interest of such Zamindars against the damage caused by the above-mentioned wild animals ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : It is a fact that a hard of about 500 wild cows and bulls is causing damage to the crops of certain villages in Gurgoan and Rohtak Districts. There is also a similar trouble in Hoshiarpur District. Local measurers so far taken for the capture of these wild cows and bulls have not been effective. Their number is ever increasing. The question of domestication of these wild animals is actively under the consideration of Government.

2. It is reported that Gujjars in Buland Shehar (Meerut) are experts in capturing such wild cows and bulls. It is also reported that previously too they captured wild cows from this district. The Deputy Commissioners, Rohtak and Gurgaon, have been asked to get into touch with the Collector, Buland Shehar and to arrange for a party of Gujjars who are experts in capturing wild cows and bulls. They have been promised suitable reward. It is hoped that the domestication of wild cows and bulls will be taken up soon either by this method or by another method which is under the consideration of the Director, Veterinary Services.

Thakur Dalip Singh : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether such complaints have also been received from Kangra District ?

Mr. Speaker : That would require a separate notice.

Shri Rattan Singh Tabib : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the Government has been successful in checking this menure effectively ?

Minister : Government is taking all possible steps in this connection and it hopes to check the menure.

Shri Rattan Singh Tabib : If these wild animals are not checked in time the poor farmers will be ruined. Early steps in this direction are necessary.

Minister : Let me assure the hon. Member that all possible efforts are being made.

LAND ALIENTATION ACT,

***1243. Chaudhri Mehar Chand** : Will the hon. Minister for Land Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to t ate :—

(*a*) whether the Government has under consideration a proposal to amend the Punjab Alienation of Land Act in certain respect ;

(*b*) how long has this proposal remained pending ;

(*c*) when is this still likely to be ready for introduction in the Legislatively Assembly ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) :

(*a*) (*b*) and (*c*) The case regarding the revision of the Punjab Land Alienation of Land Act was taken up in the joint Punjab and after partition the relevant records were called for from the West Punjab Government who have now expressed their inability to trace the papers. The question of revision is under the consideration of Government.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: Has the Government got a copy of that Act or not ?

Parliamentary Secretary : We have got a copy.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: What papers were required from the West Punjab ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Certain enquiries were made and opinions of the experts were taken. We are trying to trace those opinions.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Which committee made the enquiries and when ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is rather difficult for me to say off hand.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Does the Government realise that this Act is against the secular nature of the State ?

Mr. Speaker : That is a matter of opinion.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that this Act is against the very fundamental rights ?

Mr. Speaker : The same question has been repeated in different words.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : May I know what action was taken by the Government on a letter written on this subject by the Member representing East Punjab Land-holders Constituency on the 11th May 1949 to the Premier ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I require notice to reply to this question.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : This is quite a simple question. The Premier is there. I have got his acknowledgment to my letter. The Government wrote on the 13th May, that the letter was under consideration.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member is giving rather than seeking any information.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : How far has the Government reached in the examination of this problem ?

Mr. Speaker : The next question.

HOUSES LEFT BY EVACUEES IN VILLAGE ALAWALPUR.

***1260. Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Will the hon. Minister for Land Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the total number of houses left by the evacuees in village Alawalpur, District Jullundur ;

(*b*) the total number of houses belonging to the evacuees which were found dismantled and which have been auctioned ;

(*c*) the total number of houses still intact ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) :

(*a*) 798.

(*b*) 256 dismantled houses. No house was auctioned.

(*c*) 542.

REHABILITATION OF MUSLIMS IN TAHSIL SAMRALA.

***1274. Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Land Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of Muslims in Tahsil Samrala, District Ludhiana, who have refused to go to Pakistan and are staying in the said Tahsil ;

(*b*) whether Government have spent any amount on the rehabilitation of any Muslims in the said Tahsil ;

(*c*) whether any representation has been made to the Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana, by the displaced Muslims of the Samrala Tahsil, that they may be put in possession of their houses and lands ; if so, the action taken by the Government so far ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) :

(*a*) The information is not available.

(*b*) No sum has been spent.

(*c*) Some of the Muslims of rural areas of Samrala have asked for restoration of their houses and lands through the Congress Committee though not personally. Acting upon this, an area of 357—6 standard acres has been kept out of allotment to displaced claimants from West Punjab for restoration to Muslims. Those who applied personally have been put in possession of their houses.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Should I take it that either these people need no help, or that the Government has no money, or that it has no intention to render any help to them ?

Parliamentary Secretary : All possible help that can be given under the existing laws and conditions is being given to them.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know what Government has so far spent on those Muslims of Samrala who did not go to Pakistan and preferred to stay here ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Government is doing whatever it is possible for it to do. Its first duty is towards those poor refugees who have come here from Pakistan and whose condition is far more pitiable.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether it is also not one of the duties of the Government to render help to these people as well

Parliamentary Secretary : Of course, the Government is quite aware of its duty and every possible step is being taken to discharge it.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state whether help is being given to Muslims in other parts of the Province ?

Mr. Speaker : That does not arise out of this question ; that is a general question.

---

*1275. **Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Land Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether any movable property belonging to Muslim evacuees recovered by the Police is stocked in any of the villages in Samrala Tehsil, District Ludhiana, and whether any list of that property has been prepared ;

(*b*) whether any representation has been made to the authorities to dispose of this property ;

(*c*) whether any action has been taken by the Government in this respect, if not, why not ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) :

(*a*) Movable property belonging to Muslim evacuees recovered by the police is reported to be stocked in 26 villages near Khanna, which remains to be disposed of. Lists of the property are reported to have been prepared by the police.

(*b*) and (*c*) Orders have from time to time been issued for the disposal of this property. It has been disposed of in most of the villages in the Tehsil, but owing to the Revenue Officers having been called to the Jullundur Camp in connection with rehabilitation work, it remains to be disposed of in the villages referred to in (a) above.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it a fact that such property of the Muslims is lying undisposed for the last two years or so and that most of it has been damaged or spoilt ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is not within my knowledge. If the hon. Member gives me notice I shall enquire.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is it not one of the duties of the Rehabilitation Tehsildar to distribute such property among the refugees ?

Minister : At present they are busy at Jullundur in the work of Rehabilitation.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I ask the hon. Minister whether they have not been able to distribute the property among the refugee during the period of one year ? The property could have been easily disposed of during this period.

Minister : At some places the property was disposed of. But then the Officers had to move to Jullundur because work there was considered more urgent. So the work of disposal had to wait.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : When did the officers go to Jullundur ?

Parliamentary Secretary : They went there when the work of Rehabilitation started. Some of the property which could not be kept for long was auctioned and the rest will be disposed of as soon as it is considered advisable to do so.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether any compensation by way of rent will be paid for the godowns where recovered property had been stored ?

Parliamentary Secretary : If the hon. Member is interested in a godown belonging to him, the matter will be looked into.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I do not possess any, but I am asking a general question.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that certain government servants are still in possession of the looted property belonging to Muslim evacuees and that has not yet been recovered ?

Mr. Speaker : How does that arise out of the question ?

ALLEGED LATE DISTRIBUTION OF SEEDS TO AGRICULTURISTS IN THE PROVINCE.

***1135. Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur** : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware of the fact that during the sowing season of wheat in the year 1948, the agriculturists were very much short of wheat seed and that whatever little seed was supplied was made available very late ;

(*b*) whether any reports to this effect were received by the Government from any officials of the Civil, Agriculture and Publicity Departments ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the supply of 'Chari' seed during the last year was also made very late ;

(*d*) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the late supply of seed by the Government forced the agriculturists to buy seed from private sources at exorbitant prices ;

(*e*) if the answers to parts (*a*), (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) above be in the affirmative, what steps, if any, does the Government propose to take to make the distribution of seed to agriculturists in time in future?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :

(*a*) and (*b*) The wheat seed was stocked by about the middle of October, 1948, for sale to the Zamindars, *i. e.* about a fortnight earlier than sowing started in right earnest. There was no complaint about the short or late supply of seed from any quarter except in the Hoshiarpur district where the supply of seed was not sufficient.

(*c*) The supply of Chari seed was rather late due to the difficulties involved in its booking from the United Provinces and Central Provinces where from it was obtained.

(*d*) The zamindars had to feel some difficulties at some places but these could not be helped.

(*e*) The obtaining of Jowar and Wheat seed from the Food Department and its transport in time will improve things. Arrangements for the supply of improved wheat seed during the current Rabi season are in hand and it is hoped that the seed will be made available to the zamidars in time. New seed farms are also being established and they will ease the situation in the long run.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether or not it is a fact that the District Publicity Officer, Amritsar, who tours the district and comes into contact with the people, reported to the authorities that the supply of seeds was not made in time ?

Minister for Development : Not to my knowledge.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether the Government took any action in the matter after the receipt of the notice of the question on the subject ?

Minister : I am not aware of any action.

CHO RECLAMATION COMMITTEE

***1144. Chaudhri Kartar Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Government constituted a committee to go into the question of Cho Reclamation in the Hoshiarpur district ;

(*b*) whether this committee has submitted any report to the Government ; and if so, the date thereof ;

(*c*) what action, if any, has been taken thereon ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes. 19th January, 1949.

(*c*) The Cho Committee, Hoshiarpur, made recommendations on long range and short range basis. So far as the recommendations on long range basis are concerned, the Forest Department is already taking necessary action. As regards the recommendations made by the Committee on short range basis, Government have taken necessary decisions.

MARKET COMMITTEE AT MOGA.

***1278. Sardar Rattan Singh Gill** : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the date on which the Market Committee was established at Moga ;

(*b*) the total gross income of the Committee up-to-date ;

(*c*) the total expenditure on salaries of the staff and also on contingencies ;

(*d*) the total expenditure on works of public utility incurred by the Committee ;

[Sardar Rattan Singh Gill]

(*e*) the balance at present with the Committee including investments ;

(*f*) the total cases of underweighment, overweighment, or of excessive charges on the part of licensees that have come to the notice of Government so far ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :

(*a*) 15th August, 1941.

(*b*) Rs. 2,09,074-13-7.

(*c*) Rs. 59,540-1-3.

(*d*) Rs. 2,329-14-9. Many schemes of public utility are under consideration. They could not be taken in hand previously due to war and paucity of building material.

(*e*) Rs. 1,45,927-2-4.

(*f*) Nil.

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

***1151. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the names of Parliamentary Secretaries and their present pay;

(*b*) their duties and functions ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(*a*) and (*b*) Statements containing the information asked for are placed on the table.†

Shri Virendra : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state reasons for the disparity in the salaries of Parliamentary Secretaries ? How does he account for paying Rs. 500 to one Parliamentary Secrtary and Rs. 400 to the other ?

Premier : Those Parliamentary Secretaries whose headquarters are located at Simla are in receipt of higher pay while those whose headquarters are in the plains get less pay. The difference in salaries is, therefore, due to the more time which the Parliamentary Secretaries at Simla are required to spend than those who are staying in the plains.

Shri Virendra : May I know whether those hon. Ministers whose Parliamentary Secretaries do not stay at Simla, do not stand in need of their help while those Ministers whose Parliamentary Secretaries' headquarters are not at Simla, very much require their assistance ?

Premier : It is obvious.

Shri Virendra : When services of Parliamentary Secretaries are needed most at Simla, then why are all of them not kept here ?

Premier : I am obliged for the suggestion.

---

†Kept in the library

Shri Virendra : My point is that the services of those Parliamentary Secretaries who are not required, should be dispensed with and only those should be retained whose services are needed and that there should be no disparity in their salaries. May I know what the hon. Premier has to say about this ?

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : May I know whether, when Shri Virendra held the office of a Parliamentary Secretary, he was paid more than others ?

Mr. Speaker : No personal reflections please.

Sardar Partap Singh : May I know whether the disparity in the salaries of the Parliamentary Secretaries is due to the time and work put in by them, as has been stated by the hon. Premier, or to the high cost of living at Simla ?

Premier : What I said was that the difference in salaries was due to their head quarters being located at Simla, which everybody knows is an expensive place.

Sardar Partap Singh : My point is whether the disparity in salaries is due to the high cost of living at Simla or due to the amount of time or work put in by them. The implication in the hon. Premier's reply was that the Parliamentary Secretaries, with their head quarters in the plains, put in comparatively less work as compared with those who are staying at Simla.

(*Mr. Speaker called upon Shri Virendra to put a supplementary question and Pandit Shri Ram Sharma also got up*).

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member can come to this side (pointing to the Ministerial benches) if he wants to reply to the question. (*Laughter*).

Shri Virendra : Order, order. (*Voices* : Order, order).

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : How can the hon. Member call me to order ?

Mr. Speaker : Every member has got a right to draw my attention to the fact that a certain Member is not in order. (*Hear, hear*).

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : In what respect was I not in order ? I rose to put a supplementary question and when you asked me to sit down as somebody else had been asked to rise, I obeyed you.

Mr. Speaker : I called upon Shri Virendra and even when he got up to put his question, the hon. Member kept standing and that is why he was called to order.

Shri Virendra : Will the hon. Premier please tell us why the Parliamentary Secretary to the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation, who works day and night in rural areas in connection with rehabilitation work, receives less pay than his colleagues working at Simla ?

Premier : What I said was that due to their headquarters being located at Simla and consequential high cost of living, they were being paid more in the form of extra allowances which accounted for the difference in salaries.

Shri Virendra : I want to know how much more time they devote here as compared with others.

Premier : There can be no two opinions about what my hon. Friend feels and I quite agree with Sardar Partap Singh, that it is possible that the Parliamentary Secretaries working in rural areas might be putting equal amount of time and labour, but in fact the disparity in salaries is due to high expenses at Simla.

Shri Virendra : Is the hon. Premier prepared to consider the suggestion that such Parliamentary Secretaries who put in more work should be paid more accordingly ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will the hon. Premier please state whether or not those Parliamentary Secretaries who do not reside in Simla, do any work as Parliamentary Secretaries ?

Premier : This depends on the fact whether an hon. Minister entrusts some work to some Parliamentary Secretary and whether he has done that work.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether those Parliamentary Secretaries who have their headquarters in Simla, do some work as Parliamentary Secretaries or those who have their headquarters in their own constituencies ?

Premier : Any hon. Member who is a Parliamentary Secretary is functioning as a Parliamentary Secretary.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is there any objection in giving more allowances to Parliamentary Secretaries on account of their residing in Simla ?

Premier : There is absolutely no objection.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know whether besides Parliamentary Secretaries who have their headquarters in Simla, those Parliamentary Secretaries who have their headquarters in plains do no work except answering some questions in the House ?

Shri Mohan Lal Datta : Is it not a fact that Government do not feel the necessity of those Parliamentary Secretaries who do nothing except their domestic work ? Have they been appointed simply to cast votes ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know from the Government whether those Parliamentary Secretaries who sit at home and do no work, have ever submitted any report about their work as Parliamentary Secretaries to the Government ?

Premier : For the information of my learned Friend I would like to invite his attention to the papers laid on the table which contain the required information regarding the duties and functions of the Parliamentary Secretaries.

Captain Ranjit Singh : In the light of the fact that there is only one party Government and with reference to reply given in para. 2 sub-clause 3, may I know the significance of the term "to secure all necessary support in the House for Government" ?

Premier : May I take it that in the opinion of the hon. Member the main function of the Parliamentary Secretaries should be to withdraw as much support from the Government as can be possible ? Is this the desire of the hon Member ?

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : May I know whether there has been some decrease in the duties and functions of the Public Relation Officers in the matter of "securing the support" ?

Mr. Speaker : Next question, please.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN SERVICES.

***1152. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have evolved a new formula regarding communal representation in services ; if so, the details thereof ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Government have evolved no such formula.

Shri Virendra : May I know from the hon. Premier whether or not recruitment to Government services is made at present on the basis of communal representation ?

Premier : Since the partition no new communal representation basis has been decided upon by the Government. In the United Punjab recruitment was made on communal representation basis and certain percentage existed for various communities. Since the partition it has not been decided by the Government whether that percentage should be continued here too. In the absence of any decision regarding the matter some hon. Ministers made recruitment on communal basis while others did not do so. Since no final decision has been reached by the Cabinet, every Minister is free to follow the basis of proportion of communal representation as was the case in the United Punjab. The reason for doing so, it is stated, is this that Government did not arrive at any decision with regard to this matter, and therefore, the Ministers were within their rights to make appoinments in their own departments on communal representation basis. I wish to make this point clear that the Cabinet is unanimous on the point that in services there should be no communal representation. We are however soon trying to devise a formula under which no recruitment would be made on religious and communal basis. (*Cheers*).

Shri Virendra : May I know whether he will consult the House before a Sachar formula is devised on communal representation in Government service ?

Premier : Most gladly, I will do so. The basis on which we are unanimous is this. If there are 100 vacancies, the system of filling these vacancies would be that 15 per cent. or more would be reserved in the services for the Harijans based on their actual population. The remaining vacancies would be filled on non-religious basis. There would be competition and those who can compete can be recruited accordingly. Then there is the question of proper representation for territorial areas. Some such system has to be

[Premier]

devised under which territorial representation would be kept in view. These and other suggestions are under the consideration of the Government. So far Government has not arrived at any decision in this matter. However I would like to assure my hon. Friends that the formula which the Government would devise, would in no case be based upon any communal or religious considerations in future

Shri Virendra : The hon. Premier has just now stated that the formula for future recruitment would not be based on any communal or religious basis. Is that his personal view or that of his colleagues also ?

Premier : So far as I know and I know it well, all the Members of the Cabinet are unanimous on this point.

Shri Virendra : Shall I take it that the hon. Premier means to say that so far as he and his Cabinet are concerned, they are one and all against any communal representation ?

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : May I know if the resolution regarding recruitment to services recommended by this Assembly to the Government during the last session was not non-communal and good enough to be acted upon ?

Premier : I quite remember the resolution to which my Friend is referring. It recommended to the Government that a certain percentage be fixed for the recruitment of people from rural areas to all Government posts. I may inform my hon. Friend that that resolution was sent to the legal advisers of the Government of India for their opinion. According to the opinion that they have so far given, we legally cannot fix any such proportion in services, which aims at any reservation of posts for the people living in a particular area.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know if the Government will consider the desirability of giving more than 15 per cent of the posts to Harijans in a Department in which their representation is very meagre or practically nil, with a view to removing the existing disparity, in case suitable candidates are available ?

Mr. Speaker : It is a suggestion.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : The hon. Premier has on the one hand stated that recruitment to services will be made on non-communal basis, keeping in view the territorial representation. On the other hand, he has stated that the resolution regarding fixation of a certain proportion in services for rural people has not been approved by the legal advisers of the Government of India. Are not these two statements inconsistent ?

Premier : It is really a pertinent question. Under the Constitution as it has been passed, we cannot legally fix any proportion on territorial considerations. A method has yet to be evolved to provide for territorial consideration while making recruitment to services on the basis of selection by competition. I think it might be possible to pay regard to territorial consideration, while making the selection.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Then, will it be possible to make a distinction between urban and rural people in this matter ?

Premier : Not exactly, unless there is the legal sanction for giving special representation to rural people in the form of a provision in the Constitution similar to the one relating to backward classes and based on somewhat similar reasons.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Will it be possible to give representation in services Tahsil or District wise ?

Premier : While taking decision on this matter, Government will keep this suggestion in view. The hon. Member is welcome to send it in writing in an elaborate form.

Sardar Partap Singh : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to say if he would be willing to circulate to the House the forwarding lettter which the Government sent to the Government of India with the said resolution, as well as the reply received from there ?

Premier : I would be happy to do that.

Mr. Speaker : When a Resolution is passed by the Assembly then it is the duty of the Government to inform the hon. Members as to what action has been taken on that Resolution. In this case I was told that this information has been circulated to hon. Members of House. I would like to know if the information has been supplied to hon. Members or not ;

Sardar Partap Singh : Mr. Speaker, your observations are correct, but I would like to know from the Leader of the House if he is willing to circulate to the Members the forwarding letter, notes and comments, if any, sent to the Government of India and the reply of the Government of India ?

Premier : I assure my Friend that I am too willing to disclose to the House all information on this point.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : May I know if it will be possible for the Government to observe the distinction between rural and urban people in the matter of recruitment to services, till the time the new Constitution is promulgated ?

Premier : The Constitution is to be promulgated shortly. It will, therefore, be useless to raise this issue now and spend time and energy in finding its solution.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : May I know if the question of ending communal representation in the Cabinet has ever been considered ?

Premier : I shall be happy if the hon. Member brings a resolution to this effect in the House. I shall gladly act upon the decision of the House in the matter.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : May I know if the hon. Premier means only Hindu backward classes by the term 'Harijans' or Sikh backward classes also ?

Premier : I meant by 'Harijans' the 'scheduled castes' as defined in the Constitution.

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF DISMISSED DEPUTY SUPERINDENT OF POLICE.

*1162. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of Deputy Superintendents of Police who were dismissed from service by the United Punjab Government and have since been re-employed by the Government ; if so, the names of such persons together with the charges of which each was found guilty by the United Punjab Government before dismissal and whether any of them was charged with corruption too ;

(*b*) the special reasons for re-employment of dismissed officers in each case ; the date on which each application for re-employment was entertained by the Government ; the date on which each application was granted for re-employment ; the rank in which the Officers were re-employed and the places to which each was posted after his re-employment ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(*a*) No dismissed Deputy Superintendent of Police has been re-employed but one such Deputy Superintendent of Police, L. Lekh Raj was re-instated. He was charged with corruption and was dismissed by the Inspector General of Police of United Punjab.

(*b*) L. Lekh Raj applied in October 1947, that the charges on the basis of which he was dismissed were not proved in the United Punjab. Consequently his application was entertained and after thorough examination of the departmental proceedings held against him the East Punjab Government on the advice of Public Service Commission contained in their letter, dated 29th March 1949 decided on 8th April 1949, that the case against L. Lekh Raj Officiating Deputy Superintendent of Police, on the basis of which he was dismissed had not been proved. He was consequently re-instated in his original post of Officiating Deputy Superintendent of Police and posted as Deputy Superintendent of Police, Gurgaon, on 9th July 1949.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : It has been stated from the Government Benches that the charges on the basis of which he was dismissed in the United Punjab were not proved and at the same time, it has been said that he was dismissed ; may I know whether he was dismissed in the United Punjab or in the East Punjab ?

Premier : The corruption charges were not proved against him in the United Punjab. Consequently his application was entertained in October 1947 and enquiry was made. The departmental proceedings were submitted to the Public Service Commission. The Public Service Commission submitted its report to the Government in March 1948 and on the advice of Public Service Commission, he was consequently re-instated.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know why evidence was taken against him de novo when all evidence against him was complete in 1947 ? How were the witnesses from Pakistan called to give evidence ?

Premier : I do not remember the full proceedings of the case ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it a fact that it is the policy of the Government to re-employ the persons dismissed on the charge of corruption after entertaining their applications afresh ?

Mr. Speaker : It is a suggestion, but all the same the hon. Premier is prepared to give you a reply.

Premier : The policy of the Government is that when any final order is passed by the Government, it does not consider proper to modify or cancel that order.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta : May I know why this case was re-opened by the Government ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : If it is against the declared policy of the Government to cancel the order, may I know on what special grounds his application was entertained ?

Premier : On grounds of equity and justice.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : It has been stated that his application was decided on 8th April 1949 and he was re-instated on 9th July 1949 ; may I know when this Ministry took charge of office ?

Premier : It took charge of office on 13th April 1949.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Then why was his application kept pending for three months ?

Premier : The procedure is that when the Government takes a decision that any person be re-instated, his case is returned to the department concerned which determines his seniority. The departmental procedure takes much time.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know if the present Ministry is competent to upset the order passed by the previous Ministry ?

Mr. Speaker : This is a hypothetical question.

Pandit Faqir Chand : May I know whether the case of Lala Lekh Raj was re-opened by this Government or the previous Government ?

Mr. Speaker : There is one Government only and not two Governments.

DACOITY AND MURDER CASES.

***1187. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the total number of dacoity and murder cases in East Punjab which were registered with the Police during the year 1948-49 ;

[Pandit Mohan Lal Datta]

(*b*) the number of cases which have remained untraced so far ;

(*c*) the total number of such cases which were challaned in the Courts and in which the accused have been discharged or acquitted during the past two years, respectively ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) A statement is laid on the table.†

ARMS LICENCES.

***1188. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government had instituted an enquiry in each district, recently regarding grant of arms licences to undesirable persons ;

(*b*) the number of persons in each District found to be so undesirable ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It is regretted that answer to the question is not yet ready.

SPECIAL AID FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS OF THE BORDER DISTRICT.

***1297. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that any representation in connection with the private schools in the border districts was made to him by the Members of the East Punjab Legislative Assembly from the border districts during the last Budget Session ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that in the said representation the Members asked the Government to give aid to such schools ;

(*c*) whether Government has considered this representation, if so, with what results ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Professor Sher Singh) :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes. The schools were given special grants on account of their location on the border.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know to which schools the aid was given by the Government and to what extent ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I require notice to answer this question.

†Kept in the library.

NEW CAPITAL AT CHANDIGARH

***1153. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister of Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether it is a fact that the Government have given up the idea of building the new Capital at Chandigarh ;

(*b*) What action has been or proposed to be taken to expedite the building of the Capital ;

The hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :

(*a*) The Government have not altered the decision to build the new Capital at Chandigarh.

(*b*) In view of the financial stringency and the uncertain effect of rupee devaluation for commodities being obtained from Dollar areas, the undertaking of the work of the construction of the Capital will be delayed to some extent.

NATIONALIZATION OF TRANSPORT INDUSTRY.

***1154. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government proposes nationalising the transport industry in the Province ; if so, when, if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Government have not yet taken final decision relating to the question of nationalisation of motor transport. The decision will be taken in the near future.

TRANSFERS OF OFFICERS OF THE IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT.

***1192. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta** : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(*a*) The number of transfers of officers of the Irrigation Department made and cancelled forthwith during the year 1949 together with the reasons for cancellation of such transfers ;

(*b*) The amount of loss incurred by the Government on cancellation of each such transfer ;

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bachan Singh) :

(*a*) Transfers of 7 Sub-Divisional Officers and one Deputy Collector of the Irrigation Branch were made and cancelled forthwith during the year 1949 in the interest of service.

(*b*) No loss was incurred by the Government on cancellation of each transfer as the officers did not actually join the Sub-Divisions and Division respectively.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta : May I know if any calamity was going to fall upon the Government that it ordered the cancellation of his transfer orders ?

Mr. Speaker : It would be better if the hon. Member uses parliamentary language.

Parliamentary Secretary : The Government was not faced with any difficulty whatsoever.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Do the Government keep in view any reasons while transferring its officers ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Yes.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Then why were those reasons overlooked at the time of cancellation of these orders ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Sometime orders have to be cancelled keeping in view the exigencies of circumstances.

Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi : If the order is cancelled after the person who is transferred reaches the place of duty then is the travelling allowance of the officer borne by the Government or by the officer himself ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Such orders are cancelled before the officer proceeds to other place.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

PANCHAYAT OFFICERS AND ASSISTANT PANCHAYAT OFFICERS.

316. Chaudhri Matu Ram : Will the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government and Labour be pleased to state the total number of Assistant Panchayat Officers and Panchayat Officers employed in the Panchayat Department of the East Punjab Government during the year 1949 together with the number of Harijans amongst them ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

(*a*) Total number .. 89.

(*b*) Harijans ... 4.

DRINKING WATER FOR HARIJANS

317. Chaudhri Matu Ram : Will the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that having had Water Works at Muktsar for the last twenty-five years, the Municipality has not made any arrangement for drinking water in the Harijan area ; if so, the reasons for the same ;

(*b*) whether Municipal Committee, Muktsar charges water tax from the Harijans ;

(*c*) if the answer of part (*b*) be in the affirmative, the reasons therefor ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the President, Depressed Classes, Muktsar sent an application to the Government regarding the absence of arrangements for drinking water for the Harijans ; if so, the action taken by Government on the application ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

(*a*) Muktsar Water Works were completed in 1926 but most of the Harijan Basties sprang up afterwards. No immediate arrangements for the extention of water supply to these Basties is possible due to financial stringency.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Harijans take water from Municipal Stand Posts although they are situated far off from these Basties.

(*d*) Yes. The matter is receiving the attention of Government. The needful will be done in the near future.

RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS FOR SWEEPERS AT SIMLA

*318. **Chaudhri Matu Ram :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government and Labour be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the steps taken by the Government to ameliorate the condition of the sweepers employed by the Municipalities in East Punjab ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the hon. Minister for Labour recently expressed the view that the quarters occupied by the sweepers in Simla were absolutely unfit for human occupation, if so, what action does Government propose to take in this connection ;

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

(*a*) (*i*) All local bodies in the Province have been asked to see that their sweepers get as their monthly amoluments at least Rs 40 inclusive of allowances.

(*ii*) A questionnaire has been sent to all local bodies for supplying Government with information in regard to the number of sweepers employed and the area served by them, their conditions of service, housing and sanitation, etc.,

(*b*) Yes, but the sweepers quarters below Singh Sabha, Simla, were only considered to be unfit for human habitation. Government allotted two of the Labour Hostels for municipal sweepers of Simla but they are not available. The Municipal Committee of Simla has now allotted such of the hostels which were lying vacant in order to avoid inconvenience to sweepers living in condemned quarters.

HARIJAN WELFARE SCHEME.

319. **Chaudhri Matu Ram :** Will the hon. Minister for Local Self Government and Labour be pleased to state the number of Societies of Leather and Cloth makers organized by the East Punjab Government in accordance with the Harijan Welfare Scheme ; the places where these are located and the total amount spent by the Government on these Societies so far ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : The scheme for the organization of weaver and leather workers Co-operative Societies to be financed from the Harijan Welfare Fund was abondoned on account of the paucity of funds, as the entire existing fund is being utilized for the educational uplift of Harijans in the province.

GRANT OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO HARIJAN STUDENTS.

320. Chaudhri Matu Ram : Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the Government has under consideration a proposal to award scholarships to the Harijan students of the 4th to the 8th classes ; if so, how long will it take the proposal to materialise ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Yes. The proposal to award scholarships to Harijan students of the 5th to 8th classes is under consideration of the Government. If it is finally decided to take this step necessary orders will be issued in due course.

REPRESENTATION GIVEN TO HARIJANS.

321. Chaudhri Matu Ram : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that 16 per cent representation in government services, has been given to the Harijans in the Province ; if so, whether the Harijan M. L. A's were consulted before arriving at this decision ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : *1st part.* No. Government have decided that pending determination of the exact percentage of Schedule Caste population in the Province, 15 per cent of vacancies in all services shall be reserved for Scheduled Caste Candidates, provided that suitable material for filling such appointments is available out of such candidates. The minimum qualifications prescribed for any post are not, however, to be lowered with a view to accomodating any such candidates.

2nd part. No. H. M. L., who represents the Harijans in the Cabinet was, however, a party to this decision.

RESTRICTIONS ON CRIMINAL TRIBES.

322. Chaudhri Matu Ram : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the names of Criminal tribes in whose cases the Government has removed the restrictions ;

(*b*) whether the Government intends to remove restrictions in the case of tribes on whom restrictions are still imposed ; if so, when ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(*a*) After partition, 102 Baurias of the Ferozepore district have been denotified ;

(*b*) Government are examining the question.

HARIJAN REFUGEES OWNING LANDS IN PAKISTAN

323. **Chaudhri Matu Ram**: Will the hon. Minister for land Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state the districtwise number of such Harijan refugees coming from Pakistan, as owned lands in West Punjab ?

The hon. Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann : It is regretted that the time and labour involved in collecting the information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained thereby.

VILLAGE PANCHAYATS.

324. **Chaudhri Matu Ram :** Will the hon. Minister for Local-Self Government and Labour be pleased to state the number of Harijan Members in the different village panchayats in the District of Ferozepur ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : 68.

ALLOTMENT OF LANDS TO CULTIVATORS ON THE BORDER.

325. **Sant Narinder Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Land Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether the East Punjab Government, decided to allot 30 percent extra Land to cultivators who would settle at the border ; if so, whether the Government is aware of the fact that the Rehabilitation Department has not carried out the decision of the Government and the cultivators who are to settle at the border are being allotted land after full cut and no concession has been given to them ;

(*b*) whether the Government is willing to consider the giving of other concessions to such tanents as are willing to settle at the border, if it is not possible to allot 30 percent extra-land to them ?

The hon. Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann :

(*a*) Government intended at one stage that in the case of villages to be specified, in consultation with the district authorities of certain border districts, some additional land might be allowed. It was found however, that it was difficult to single out a few villages for such treatment. If the concession were made to all villages within a certain distance of the border, the area involved would be so considerable that it would be difficult to find land for the purpose. After taking all aspects into account, it was, therefore, decided that the proposal could not be implemented.

(*b*) All necessary assistance will be given to those settling in the border villages.

REFUGEE TENANTS.

326. Sant Narinder Singh: Will the hon. Minister for Land Revenue Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state what decision has so far been taken by the Government in the matter of rehabilitation of refugee tenants?

The hon. Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann: It has been decided that displaced tenants-at-will holding temporary allotments will not be ejected from their present holdings during Kharif 1949 and Rabi 1950. Thereafter they will be able to look on land as tenant-at-will to the new allottees. It is hoped that they will be able to make the necessary arrangements when the new allottees take possession of the land.

HOURS OF SITTING ON 14TH OCTOBER 1949.

Premier (The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar): I move—

> That on Friday, 14th October 1949, the Assembly shall meet at 10 a. m. and the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly without question put at 1. 30. p. m. or earlier if the business set down on the list of business for that day is completed.

3 P. M.

The motion was carried.

RESOLUTIONS.

DISTRIBUTION OF CONTROLLED COMMODITIES.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang (Ex-member, West Punjab Assembly representing Lyallpur East, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): I move—

> This Assembly recommends to the Government to take steps that in future distribution of all the controlled commodities in the province be made only through Co-operative Societies of the Consumers.

Sir, the Resolution I have moved is of very great importance. At present we find that the people of the world are being governed by three kinds of Governments, namely, Capitalist, Democratic and Dictator Governments. As is clear from its very name the Capitalist Government is controlled by rich people. Democracy according to its definition is the Government of the people by the people for the people. As for the Dictatorship, this Government is democratic to begin with but gradually as time passes and the Government gains power the wishes of the people are disregarded. No doubt, it is not so dangerous as a Capitalist Government in which owners of big factories and business concerns through their fabulous riches keep the masses under their heels with a show of elections, etc. In my opinion, of all these forms of Government, Democracy is the best as the people are given a right to be governed by their own representatives. After the attainment of independence, while making its constitution the country under the leadership of its great patriots like Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru decided to set up a Democratic Republic. This clearly signified that we were to have a Government which was to be of the people and for the people. Technically we have of course established a democratic Government and the fact cannot be denied that our leaders are the real representatives of the people. But in all seriousness I ask

whether this Government has done anything for the good of the people. I think no responsible man can answer my question in the affirmative. Democracy has doubtless been established but it has not yet succeeded.

I do not deny that the people and the Government after partition have suffered untold hardships. Our Province has become a deficit Province. In addition to the unprecedented refugee problem, the Kashmir incident, the ever rising prices of articles and the devaluation have very seriously affected our economic condition. We have had to work against colossal difficulties. I think only the refugee poblem could have proved a very hard nut for any Government to crack even in normal times. But after I have said all this I am in a position to say that the main causes of our failure are the people on whom we depended for work, but they did not co-operate. They definitely proved themselves to be non-co-operators. Non-co-operation was all right when we had to fight a foreign Government and this past act of ours should not be made a habit. Now when we have our national Government in power we should not unnecessarily criticise its doings simply because of our habit. A similar opinion is held about the Irish. It is said that once when an Irish ship happened to touch the shore of on island the inmates of the ship came out and inquired from some of the islanders as to whether some Government existed there. On being told that there was one they gave out that they were opposed to it. When asked why they felt so without knowing whether it was good or bad, they replied that it was simply their habit to oppose Governments. I am strongly of the opinion that such a mentality should be deprecated. We should do all we can to keep our newly established democracy living. To my mind as the capitalist Government depends on rich people and the dictatorship on nationalisation, democracy wants the co-operation of its people. The Government has to be in contact with consumers as well as the producers. It certainly cannot afford to neglect or ignore 85 or 86 per cent of the people who live in the rural areas. Surely about 15 per cent of the people living in the cities cannot keep a democracy living for all times.

The shortage of goods necessitates the imposition of controls. By doing so, the Government aims at the equitable distribution of available goods among all persons. The difficulty however is that when controls are actually imposed our businessmen, who have a bania mentality, conceal all the stocks held by them. We have recently witnessed the case of sugar Before imposition of control it was available at comparatively cheaper rates, but now its stocks have gone underground. A certain businessman of Solan declared that he possessed only twenty maunds of sugar. A few days later his house collapsed on account of heavy rains and when the police prepared a list of articles recovered from the debris it was found that he possessed not twenty maunds but twenty bags of sugar. The businessmen of our country are not holding high esteem in foreign countries, The Commerce Member of our country remarked sometime ago that other countries did not like to purchase Indian articles because our traders did not supply goods according to sample. For these reasons our Government should arrange for the distribution of iron sugar,

[Sardar Dalip Singh Kang]

cloth and other controlled commodities through Co-operative Societies. This is the only way of putting an end to black market. Government has been thinking over the ways of ending it since long but it has not been able to find any effective method. As you know, Sir, our businessmen do not mind any punishment. They pay the fines which may be imposed on them and carry on their activities as before. It will be remembered that at a time when the relations between India and Pakistan were not very cordial these businessmen were supplying cloth and even sulphuric acid to Pakistan. Before the partition of the country, the United Punjab was foremost in India in respect of co-operative movement. This did immense good to the rural people and crores of rupees which would have otherwise been squandered or spent on wine were deposited in Co-operative Banks. On partition the co-operative movement in our province received a serious set-back. Crores of rupees of our people were left with Co-operative Banks in the West Punjab, most of this amount being with the Lahore Central Co-operative Bank. As this money could not be obtained, co-eperative movement came to a stop United Provinces is now leading in the movement in which the Punjab used to lead. In order that we may retrieve our old position, the sale of all controlled articles should be entrusted to Co-operative Societies. When people find that they can obtain articles from these Societies at much cheaper rates than from other sources, the credit of these societies wlll go high and more money will come to be invested in them. Our Government has been telling as that it wishes to encourage Cottage Industries in the Province. When that is done their products will find a very good agency for sale to the public. It cannot be said as to when villagers will be provided with facilities like electricity and good roads but they should at least be provided with all the controlled articles through these societies. By doing so the Government will win the confidence of the public and the communists will not be able to appeal to them. If a villager can get the articles of his need, he will have no cause of complaint, because he knows that under any system of Government, he has to work hard to earn his livelihood. His main complaint to-day is that the Government controls the distribution of articles in order to help shopkeepers. Hon. Premier was pleased to remark during the course of his statement to-day that we should not make distinction between rural and urban. May I enquire why more sugar is supplied to people in the cities than to the people living in the villages? Why are not iron, cement and cloth supplied to the rural areas on the same basis on which these are supplied in urban areas ? Many buildings in the villages are lying in damaged condition and these cannot be repaired because iron, cement and coal are not made available. If the Government really wants to help the rural people, it should entrust the distribution of all controlled articles to Co-operative Societies. It is not essential that these Societies should comprise of consumers only. These can supply seeds and cattle and advance money to those in need of it and thus serve as multipurpose Societies. These should act like village panchayats and be self sufficient. No change in their economic condition having been brought about, the masses feel that whereas formerly they were ruled

by white bania, he has now been replaced by Indian bania. Unless the Government acts in a manner so as to convince the villagers that their lot will be improved, it will cease to command their confidence. There is a deficit of only ten per cent. in the production of food-grains in our Province and if the Zamindars make up their mind, they can increase this amount of production by paying a little more heed to their work. Their complaint at present is that the village shop-keepers do not let them obtain their bare necessities of life. To meet all these difficulties I propose that the distribution of all controlled commodities should be done through Co-operative Societies. With these words I move my Resolution and hope that the House will approve of it.

Mr. Speaker : Resolution moved—

> This Assembly recommends to the Government to take steps that in future distribution of all the controlled commodities in the province be made only through Co-operative Societies of the Consumers.

Thakur Dalip Singh (Kangra South, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I support the Resolution moved by my hon. Friend Sardar Dalip Singh Kang and congratulate him on having moved it. It is true that before taking the reins of office the Congress used to say that not only all the articles of every day need should be distributed through Co-operative Societies but all work in the villages including cultivation should be done on co-operative basis. I am sorry, however, to point out that all these tall claims remained only in paper and were not put into practice.

Even to-day we find that Resolutions are passed by the District and Provincial Congress Committees, but nobody pays any heed to them. After all what is the cause of this state of affairs ? In my opinion, either the Civil Supplies Department is not working honestly and properly or the Government is very much enamoured of the business community. What I want to submit is that this matter is of national importance and should be dealt with accordingly. We know that the people in the rural areas have not been able to get kerosene oil for months together. The people of my district do not get even food-grains to eat and if at all they manage to get they are of a worth less quality. The wheat and gram which cannot be conveniently disposed of in the towns and cities are made over to the villages for distribution among the people. Even if the Department gets those dirty food-grains cleaned, the shop-keepers, in order to earn more profit, once again mix dust etc., in them. The hon. Members of this House, I think, are aware of all these things. Even the hon. Ministers, unless they happen to be deep urbanites, should ordinarily know these things.

There has been a lot of discussion over the matter of co-operative societies in the past. But on one pretext or another the matter remained shelved. At one time, the societies were required to be registered, at another to be consumer's societies or multi-purpose consumer's societies and this request could not be granted by the Government. Again the officials of the Department say that the

[Thakur Dalip Singh]

business can be given only to those businessmen or societies who have been in the line since 1938, 1939. As, there were no Co-operative Societies functioning at that time, they could not be entrusted with the work of distribution of commodities. Under these circumstances I would submit that, if this Resolution is passed, necessary legal adjustment should be made exempting the Co-operative Stores from the application of that time clause. I may remind the House that it was on the slogan of fair distribution of commodities like kerosene oil and sugar that we successfully fought the last elections to the Assembly. We, at that time, told the villagers that Sir Chhotu Ram was making them take their sharbat in gur instead of sugar, but we would remove these difficulties if returned. As a result of this propaganda we won the elections. But the House is aware that the situation then was not so bad as now, because the complaints made against the shopkeepers were looked into. But with the attainment of freedom, the things have become worse. In the first place, the commodities are not available and secondly if any complaint is lodged, it is not listened to. I make bold to say that if this weapon is used against us in the coming elections, it will be a legitimate one.

There is one thing more which I would like to place before the House. It is this ; if this Resolution is passed, it will go to the Departmental Officers for their opinion. In this connection I may submit that a similar Resolution regarding the fixing of rural and urban representation in the services, was turned down by the Legal Adviser to the Government of India. It is possible that this Resolution may also meet the same fate. In that case, the time of this august House will be unnecessarily wasted. What I want is that the opinion of this House should carry more weight than that of the Departmental Officials of the Government and it should be acted upon. It can, however, be said that the Co-operative Societies can also be corrupt and dishonest. There can, no doubt, be stray cases of that kind. But in general, I can say without fear of contradiction, that the black market will difinitely receive a set back in that case, because it is very difficult for ten or twenty people to indulge in such malpractices. The people, on the other hand, will get better facilities in the matter of distribution of controlled commodities. If not two, they will certainly get one bottle of kerosene oil and a seer of sugar. Besides all this, there is one thing more. The Officials of the Civil Supplies Department have grown so insolent that they treat people shabbily and with contempt. On the other hand, the officials of the Co-operative Department have not as yet acquired this official insolance and they consider themselves servants of the public. There have been more cases of corruption in the Civil Supplies Department than in that of Co-operative Societies. If the Government has any soft corner for the people of the Province, all commodities of daily use, such as iron, coal sugar etc., should be distributed through Co-operative Societies at least in the villages, if not in the cities as well.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal (Hansi, General Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, our hon. Friend Sardar Dalip Singh has rightly placed before this House the feelings and demands of the public, by bringing forth this Resolution. He has rendered a yeoman's service to the people in

the villages by putting their difficulties in the matter of controls before this House and the Government. I have just now been directed not to take much time over this Resolution ; so I shall make only a few observations in a brief manner. In the first place let us see what led to the bringing forth of this Resolution. The first essential prerequisite for the uplift of a nation is the co-operative movement. In the advanced countries of the West, top priority was given to the work of Co-operative Societies. You, Sir, must have read many books on economics and other subjects of this nature. So the importance of this movement must be evident to you. I have also had an opportunity to read a book on Germany. The peasants and farmers in that country were leading deplorable life. But as soon as they started and gave impetus to the co-operative movement, their economic condition took a change for the better. Our own country at the present time is passing through changed circumstances. It is, therefore, necessary that the feelings of the people should be properly respected and cared for. We shall really be doing a constructive service to our country by starting the co-operative movement. The depot-holders are not the real representatives of the people. Most of the depot-holders are there because they have some contact or other with the Officers of the Civil Supplies Department, who in order to enjoy patronage or reap advantages out of them, keep them and let them have undue profits. The commodities are never supplied in their proper condition and in right quantities. These are the points which made it necessary for this Resolution to be brought forward. Co-operative Societies should be entrusted with the task of distribution. I come from a rural area and so I know where the shoe pinches. The hardships of the rural population are many. The people there are sick of the Officials of the Civil Supplies Department. The distribution of controlled commodities is very defective. From it only the depot-holders and those connected with the Civil Supplies Department draw advantages. The common man suffers. If strong action is taken to set things right, the depot-holders will have to pay heavily for their crimes against society and many of the Officials of the Civil Supplies Department will have to lose their jobs. It is the unanimous demand of this House and that of the 90 per cent. of population that steps in this direction should be immediate and firm. Our Government can have no objection against such a course of action. So no effort should be spared to meet this general demand Thorough enquiries should be carried out against all those Officials of the Civil Supplies Department against whom people have complaints. Government should have no soft corner for such officials. These people look to their personal interests only and deprive others of their due. Such people control the Civil Supplies Department from top to bottom. They have no sympathy for the poor villagers. If the conditions of the Civil Supplies Department are to be improved such officials will have to be brought to the right path. These people who bring the Government into disrepute are to be treated with a stern hand. So it is quite evident that the elements, who have the interests of the poor before them, should assert and bring about conditions under which the people may heave a sigh of relief. With this object in view this Resolution has been moved and I hope that early action will be taken to put it into practice.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : The Resolution before the House is a clear proof of the fact that the people at large are not satisfied with the present system of distribution of controlled commodities by the Civil Supplies Department of the Government. They want a change and a better system of distribution. This Resolution shows that they are inclined to take advantage of the co-operative movement because that gives them some hope for the better. Every one knows that the Indian Nationol Congress has adopted as its ideal the creation of a classless society. It wants to put an end to every farm of explotation. But the methods to bring about a change are to be of non-voilence and selfless service. The object of this Resolution cannot be other than this. To-day a man in the street needs help. For the service of the down-trodden both the methods should go hand in hand. We should serve the people in every possible way. This Resolution aims at removing the economic difficulties of the poor. I live in a rural area and so am aware of the hardships to which the people there are daily subjected. I am also in touch with those who are in power these days. I can say from my personal experience that the attitude of the ruling class towards the under dogs is not that of sympathy and understanding. I notice no change for the better. The spirit of service is conspicous by its absence. This spirit cannot be created by compulsion. It can only come from within. If we work with this spirit it is only then that all exploitation can end. We can then achieve our cherished ideals.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma (Kangra West, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I rise to offer my support to this Resolution. If we just glance at the history of the co-operative movement in the Punjab, we find that before its commencement in the rural areas the moneylender used to fleece the zamindars by charging exorbitant interest on the loans which he advanced to them. When this state of affairs assumed serious proportions, Government began to endeavour hard to find out a solution to put a stop to this evil. They started co-operative credit societies in the villages for the purpose of lending money to the zamindars at lower rates. But after some time it came to light that those very people, namely the moneylenders, who used to do money lending business, joined these co-operative credit societies some how and their money began to be utilised in advancing loans to the zamindars. In other words the co-operative movement did not deprive them of their legitimate income from moneylending business. Keeping this fact in view I may say that the object of this Resolution is no longer to attack the trading classes or deprive them of their business. I think if the distribution of controlled commodities is made through the channels of co-operative societies in the rural areas, the village bania or the village shopkeeper will prove of great help and utility to the co-operative societies. He can be employed to manage the affairs of the societies. Now what is the present state of things ? The trading classes and the Civil Supplies Officers are deeply incollusion with one another to fleece the poor people. Corruption is the order of the day. When a trader finds that he can earn a lot in a certain transaction by handsomely greasing the palm of the Civil Supplies Officer, he tries to corrupt him. I, therefore,

feel that formation of Consumers Co-operative Societies for distribution of controlled commodities, is the only way to put a stop to this evil. A Consumers Co-operative Society will be a registered body and its accounts will be maintained accurately leaving thereby little chance for corruption. I am sure introduction of this movement will go a long way to root out corruption lock, stock and barrel. Now-a-days we find strong feeling of resentment among the people against the Government on account of non-availability or scarcity of controlled commodities. When we visit rural areas, we receive innumerable complaints from the public regarding defective distribution of controlled commodities. In case they are available they can be had at prohibitive prices, and an ordinary consumer cannot afford to pay for them. So distribution on co-operative basis is a panacea for extirpating corruption and removing artificial scarcity of controlled commodities. With these words I again wholeheartedly support the Resolution

Sardar Kartar Singh (Ex-member, West Punjab Assembly, representing Layallpur West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, the Resolution moved by my hon. Friend Sardar Dalip Singh Kang proposes the formation of Co-operative Societies for purposes of distribution of controlled commodities in the Province. But I feel that the essential need of the country is that not only controlled commodities but also other necessities of life should be distributed as far as possible through Co-operative Societies. In this many of the economic ills which are eating into the vitals of our country, will be removed. Sir, one characteristic trait of the co-operative system is that it is universally popular and has been adopted both b the capitalistic as well as communistic countries. In other words it has proved equally useful to different people believing in diametrically opposed ideologies. So this system has some inherent good quality which appeals to one and all. We should also adopt this system of distribution of commodities among the people. When the co-operative movement was started in our Province, it gave rise to the misgivings in the minds of people who began to suspect the *bona fides* of the Britisher, the then ruler of our country. People thought that the Englishman had introduced the co-operative system with some ulterior motive, a political motive, or with a view to doing harm to the interests of certain classes. But later on these misgivings were belied and the public began to realise its benefits. Only recently the All India Congress Working Committee included in its programme the intensification of co-operative movement in the country in the matter of both production as well as distribution of commodities. Directions are said to have been issued to the Provincial Governments to translate this programme into action as soon as possible. It, therefore, behoves our Government that when this august Assembly is also subscribing to this programme in the form of this Resolution and is making a recommendation to the Government to give it a practical shape, it should carry it out with the greatest enthusiasm. I also hope that when this Resolution is passed, it would not meet with the same fate at the hands of the Government, as has been meted out to a Resolution already passed by this House on the subject of giving proper representation to the rural people in services. No action has so far been

[Sardar Kartar Singh]

taken on the recommendation made in that Resolution. I would request the Government not to put it in the cold storage, if it really wants to do some good for the people whose betterment is uppermost in its heart. With these words I support this Resolution.

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Narotam Singh) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I move—

That in:—

(*i*) lines 3-4, for the word 'Province', the words 'rural areas' be substituted;

(*ii*) line 4, for the word 'only', the words 'as far as 'possible' be substituted;

(*iii*) line 5, for the word 'consumers', the word 'villages' be substituted.

Sir, since the people in the urban areas can manage to obtain controlled commodities without much difficulty, I feel that the Resolution should lay stress on the necessity of meeting the requirements of the people in the villages. I have, therefore, moved this amendment which seeks to substitute the words 'rural areas', for the word 'Province' in the main Resolution.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Premier this morning informed the House in reply to a question that legal opinion was against the Resolution regarding the representation of urban and rural areas in the services of the Province, passed during the last session of the Assembly. I find that the amendment moved by the Parliamentary Secretary is also discriminatory. If it is thought that the Resolution when carried into effect would give some benefit to the public, then why limit that benefit to the rural areas only, why not let that benefit be for the whole of the Province ? I always find discrimination in such matters. The other day I was reading an advertisement in which it was mentioned that women were not eligible for a certain post. This is also discrimination. I do not know what is the position of the Government in such matters. I would not like to express my opinion but I have brought this to the notice of the House and the Government.

Resolution under consideration amendment moved—

That in :—

(*i*) lines 3-4, for the word 'Province', the words 'rural areas' be substituted;

(*ii*) line 4, for the word 'only', the words 'as far as possible' be substituted;

(*iii*) line 5, for the word 'consumers', the word 'villages' substituted.

Minister for Industries (The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, the Resolution moved by my hon. Friend Sardar Dalip Singh Kang along with the amendments which have been moved in this House are of great and vital importance. Before I express my opinion as to the intention of the Government regarding this matter, I wish to bring this point home to the hon. Members that it does not give any pleasure to any Government in imposing restriction on the essential requirements of the people, nay it does not even like to levy any control whatsoever on the prices and the distribution of essential commodities. Government is bent upon imposing controls under forced circumstances when certain essential

commodities are meagre in quantity and when it is not possible for all the people to procure them and also when moneyed people go on multiplying their wealth while the poor starve for food. There is yet another factor which is responsible for the imposition of controls and that is that the prices of essential commidities have shot up to high pitch that it is beyond one's reach to procure them. It is crystal clear from this that Government is forced only by circumstances to take such a step and it does so simply in the interests of the public. I do not admit that the distribution of work and other arrangements in this connection is a very difficult job. The success of this work is mainly dependent upon a vigilant and honest staff which in my opinion is difficult to find under the present conditions. Keeping these facts in view, I would like to throw some light on the policy of the Government with regard to this matter, namely the commodities which have been brought under control and the way in which they are being distributed. My hon. Friends know it full well that control has been imposed on many commodities. Let us take the foodgrains which are needed by one and all. Next comes cloth It was also under control, but its distribution is free now and is available in the market at a little higher price. Cement which is required both in urban and rural areas for repairs and construction purposes, is also under control. Coal which is also under control is required by them for manufacturing bricks. Then there is kerosene oil. This is needed more in rural areas than in urban areas as there is no electricity in the rural areas. Government has thought it desirable to levy control on sugar too. In the distribution of these commodities it has been the policy of the Government to appoint such agencies which would make the distribution in a quite satisfactory manner. Keeping this fact in view Government has issued instructions to the District Officers to give every possible encouragement and preference to Co-operative Societies. Instructions have also been issued to the effect that distribution work should be given to those Co-operative Societies which volunteer themselves to undertake this work and do it properly. Now I would like to place those difficulties before the hon. Members which the Government is faced with in this direction. Everybody cannot do a particular work or in other words this work cannot be entrusted to every person. Instances in this connection are not wanting. A trader or a shop-keeper cannot be proficient in the art of seed sowing or ploughing.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : You want everybody to own land.

Minister for Industries : I am not saying anything against the hon. Member. What I meant is this that it is not necessary that a person who knows how to sow seeds in the fields and sows them well should be a good shop-keeper or a businessman too. There are many businessmen in this Province of East Punjab and the main source of their livelihood is nothing but business. But unfortunately most of our brethren from West Punjab are businessmen and shop-keepers. They have no other source of livelihood except this. We have to rehabilitate this class of people too.

[Minister for Industries]

We have also issued instructions to the effect that while appointing depot-holders or agencies for the distribution of controlled commodities, care should be taken to appoint one-half from amongst the refugees and one-half from amongst the local people. Keeping all these facts in view, as I have already stated , there is no doubt about it that Co-operative Societies are given preference to others. Here I cannot do without bringing in the present strength of these Co-operative Societies in our Province. Before the partition almost in every part of United Punjab in general and East Punjab in particular there were mostly Co-operative Credit Societies and their main function was to advance loans to the needy people. There we had Welfare Societies too. The number of such societies as were entrusted with the work of distribution was not much. Now their number in our Province is gradually increasing.

I would like to give my hon. Friends an idea about the strength of these Co-operative Societies by giving their number districtwise. In the District of Ambala there are 30 Co-operative Societies which have been entrusted with distribution work. Both the Deputy Commissioner and the District Organiser have expressed their opinion that their work is not satisfactory.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : It has to be so.

Minister for Industries : In the District of Karnal, where there are 18 such Co-operative Societies, the Deputy Commissioner has given his opinion that these societies are working quite satisfactorily. In the District of Jullundur there are about 30 such societies and the Deputy Commissioner writes to say that these are only credit societies and that most of these are not multi-purpose societies. In the District of Ludhiana there are 30 such societies and the Deputy Commissioner writes to say that their work is very unsatisfactory.

I wish to bring this point home to the hon. Members that after all a person can work and work well in a particular direction only if he has some interest in it. In other words a person can work more efficiently in an individual capacity and is sure to show better results than by working on co-operative basis where he can easily employ some person to represent him and will not thus take any interest himself. But if the Members of the Co-operative Societies take deep interest in this work, there is no reason why their efforts should not be crowned with success. There are 20 to 30 such Co-operative Societies in each District which have been entrusted with the distribution work There has been a general complaint from the rural public that these commodities are not made available to them. Let us take cement first. We get a quota of 8000 tons of cement monthly and 85 per cent. of this quota is utilized by the Government for Bhakra and Nangal projects and the rest of the quota is meant for distribution purposes. Now the Central Government has brought cement under the general licence and we have been getting sufficient supplies and we do not feel any difficulty now. In this connection I wish to quote certain figures regarding its distribution. In the month of August we distributed 19421 bags and 15927 bags to rural and urban areas respectively.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : What is the difference of population between the two ?

Minister for Industries : The policy underlying this distribution is already clear to the hon. Members. There is no denying the fact that cement is needed both in rural and urban areas for repairs and construction purposes. In every district the work of its distribution is entrusted to the Sub-Committee attached to the District Civil Supplies Officer. Here I cannot do without saying this that no Officer is distributing cement of his own accord. The applications for cement are considered by the sub-committee which is the distributing authority. As a matter of fact permits are issued with the approval of the sub-committee. Before making this arrangement, cement was not available even in small quantities and the public was greatly inconvenienced for want of it. Orders were, therefore, issued that to meet the requirement of general public, five seers should be supplied to every house-owner through some local dealers.

4 P. M.

Now coal is a commodity, which is not required by every one. Slack coal is mostly supplied by the Government of India. We distribute the quota that we get among the kiln owners through their Association in which the representation of refugees is 50 per cent.

Now I would like to say something about the position of cloth. Previously, there was control on the distribution of cloth and it was made through a few licenced dealers. We have removed this control and I am happy to say that East Punjab gave the other provinces a lead in this matter. It was after we had abolished control over the distribution of cloth, that the Government of India also thought it proper to remove it. Now the control is only on the price. If the supply of cloth increases sufficiently, we shall abolish control on price also.

Coming to food-grains, I might state that leaving aside cities where rationing has been introduced, 1048 food-grains depots have been opened in small towns and rural areas, so that whereever people experience any difficulty in procuring food-grains, they might purchase their requirements from these depots on the same scale as in rationed towns. Besides this, they are free to obtain food-grains from other sources *i. e.*, from places where they are available. So they are not experiencing any inconvenience in this matter. So far as the complaint regarding the quality of food-grains is concerned, I have already stated in reply to a question that the food-grains that we get from outside are of a very inferior quality, though they cost us more. We have written to the Government of India about this matter. Moreover, the quota that we receive from them is not released every fortnight and so it is not possible to dispose it off as soon as it is received and it has, therefore, to be stored for a pretty long time. It is distributed among the dealers according to the requirements, but instructions have been issued that no depot holder should supply uncleaned wheat or other grains. Licences of several depot holders have been cancelled on receipt of complaints

[Minister for Industries]

against them. The District Civil Supplies Committee has been entrusted with the work of dealing with such complaints and of taking necessary measures in the matter.

Last but not least in importance, is the supply of kerosene oil in the rural areas. Non-availbility of kerosene oil was the chief complaint of people before April 1949. During the course of my tours in rural areas, wherever I made enquiries, this complaint was mentioned first of all. Being a ruralite myself, I could well understand the feelings of the people on this matter. So far as the distribution of kerosene oil is concerned, I can say without fear of contradiction, that never have such satisfactory arrangements been made before, (*cheers*). The method of distribution that we have introduced is briefly this. Ten to twelve villages have been grouped in one circle and there is a Distribution Committee for every circle which supervises the work of distribution. The retailer goes to a fixed shop in every village on a fixed date and supplies the kerosene oil on the production of a card to every house-holder in the presence of and with the consultation of the Distribution Committee. Our monthly quota of kerosene oil is 50 thousand units, a unit consisting of 8 gallons, but we have not been getting more than 30 to 38 thousand units. The distribution is first made district wise and this is the company's concern. We have nothing to do with it. Our main difficulty is that we are not getting the quantity that we need. The company has now served a notice that even the existing supply of 38 thousand units will be reduced by 45 per cent. So far as the distribution among the public is concerned, we do not make any discrimination between the towns and the villages or the rich and the poor, or between a person drawing a higher salary and one drawing a lower salary. Everybody gets the same quantity. Now I might briefly state how much kerosene oil has been distributed in rural areas. In District Ambala, it was distributed 6 times. I have got a villagewise list of distribution. If any hon. Member can prove any entry to be incorrect, I shall take action against the official responsible for supplying wrong information. Every card-holder in Ambala District received up to 9 bottles as a result of this distribution. In District Amritsar, distribution was made 5 times, 10 bottles coming to every body's share ; in Ferozepur six times ; in Hoshiarpur 6 times, one and a half bottles each time ; in Gurdaspur 6 times, 2 bottles each time ; in Karnal 6 times ; in Hissar 5 times, one bottle each time ; in Kangra four or five times at the rate of one bottle each time; in Rohtak at some places 3 times and at others 6 times at the rate varying from one to two bottles and in Simla distribution was made five or six times. In District Jullundur distribution was made six times and the maximum quantity was given. Gurgaon is the only district where some difficulty was experienced by the public in this matter, owing to shortage of supplies. This was due to the fact that it is connected by meter gauge railway. We have written to the company to make suitable arrangements, so that kerosene oil should reach Gurgaon in sufficient quantity in future. Distribution in all these districts

was made through the Circle Distribution Committees or the Lambardars of villages. I have got villagewise reports. I was congratulated at many places on solving the problem of distribution of kerosene oil satisfactorily. I have got with me the opinion of the Tehsil Congress Committee, Sirsa about the distribution scheme of kerosene oil. I may read it out for the information of the hon. Members of this House. The President of the said Committee has written as follows :—

> We the members of the Tehsil Congress Committee, Sirsa, hereby certify that the distribution of kerosene oil in the tehsil has been extremely satisfactory and we congratulate the Department on this distribution.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : Who procured this certificate ;

Minister : It was sent by the district organiser to the department. The president of the Tahsil Congress Committee gave it to the district organiser.

Sir, what I wanted to stress is that in this way we are doing a great service to the people living in rural areas. If, however, the hon. Members desire that Co-operative Societies be formed for distribution of controlled commodities, we cannot possibly have any objection to it. On the other hand we shall be pleased to encourage the formation of such societies.

In the end I would like to say a few words about the position of sugar. I quite realise the difficulty that the public are experiencing. The position has unfortunately very much deteriorated since last month. At first, there was only a slight rise in the prices. A meeting was held in Delhi to forge measures to meet the situation and then the Government proceeded to freeze the stocks of sugar lying in the mills, with the result that the stocks of sugar went under-ground, and the price of sugar shot up. At that time the Government decided to impose official control upon the sugar on account of its being in short supply. We, therefore, addressed the Government of India for the supply of sugar as the only one factory which exists in the East Punjab cannot cater for the needs of the people of the province. The sugar factories are to be found in large numbers in Bombay and Bihar. Our monthly requirment of sugar is 9,500 tons. The consignment of 28,000 tons of sugar which we got has been distributed in the last 8 or 9 months. The Government of India has promised to give 10, 000 tons of sugar to this province out of which 6,500 tons of sugar have been recently allotted. This quota has been distributed in all the district towns of the province. Its distribution has also commenced in the rural areas with the exception of a few villages where the arrangements will be made within a day or so. The distribution of sugar in the rural areas will be made against kerosene oil cards. At present whatever quota of sugar has been made available to this Government has been despatched to all districts for distribution at ration depots. We have received a number of complaints but we are helpless as the sugar is not manufactured in large quantity in this province, and is thus not sufficient for free sale in the market. The Government had perforce to take this step on account of the shortage of sugar. I may inform the House that the Government is fully alive to the consumers'

[Minister for Industries]

Difficulties and is making all efforts to ease the situation. Government has taken stern measures against corruption in the Civil Supplies Department and has taken strong action against the depot holders who indulged in various mal-practices by cancelling their depots. It has also curbed the activities of smugglers with a heavy hand. These offenders have been brought to book and have been fined. The amount of fine so realised has been credited into Government Treasury. I shall be glad if the villagers form Co-operative Societies and try to help themselves. In this way they themselves will be held responsible for equal distribution of controlled commodities in their area and the burden of the Government will be much lightened. If the Co-operative Societies are formed the people will learn how to work efficiently and our difficulty will be solved to a considerable extent.

Shri Buja Ram Bhagat (Loharu, Dujana and Pataudi States) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that equitable distribution of all controlled commodities is being made everywhere, but I would like to take this opportunity to bring to his notice that it is not true so far as Loharu State is concerned. There, even the ration cards have not yet been prepared and nobody has got ration of wheat so far. Not to speak of wheat, even bajra has not been supplied, with the result that the price of wheat has shot up to Rs. 30 per maund. If the Co-operative Societies are formed, the common man will certainly heave a sigh of relief as he will also have a chance to serve as a member of the Co-operative Society and thereby look to the interests of all people. I would submit Sir, that it is wrong to say that these societies will not function properly. I am of the opinion that if these societies are formed, consumers' difficulties will be greatly reduced. The hon. Minister has remarked during the course of his speech that the Government has to help refugees to establish the mselves again in life. But I would request the hon. Minister to spare adequate quantity of wheat for Loharu State, as well, as wheat is not grown in this area. If the Government does not come to the rescue of consumers and goes on delaying or proving its ineffectiveness in rendering help to them in their difficulties, the suffering poor man in his anxiety and despair would curse such a Government and the voice from his aching heart may bring about the downfall of the Government. When a poor man feels distressed by a sense of perpetual want and his ordinary needs are not satisfied, the Government may not take notice of it, but it cannot escape notice of the all seeing God. He is scrutinising all our actions and would certainly devise punishment for wrong doers. With these words I request that this Resolution may be passed. Such Co-operative Societies are working in the Patiala Union and the public is not experiencing any difficulty in getting wheat. In the East Punjab wheat of good quality is not supplied to the people and whatever wheat is supplied it contains dust and other rotten matter and is not fit for human consumption. Imported wheat of inferior quality is also mixed in.

An hon. Member : Question may now be put, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the question may now be put.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That in—

(*i*) lines 3—4, for the word "Province", the words "rural areas" be substituted ;

(*ii*) line 4, for the word "only", the words "as far as possible" be substituted ;

(*iii*) line 5, for the word "consumers", the word "villages" be substituted.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

This Assembly recommends to the Government to take steps that in future distribution of all the controlled commodities in the rural areas be made as far as possible through Co-operative Societies of the villages.

The motion was carried.

COMPULSORY PRIMARY EDUCATION.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : I move—

This Assembly recommends to the Government to take early steps to make primary education compulsory for all children in the Province and to provide necessary facilities for the same.

(*At this stage Mr. Speaker left the Chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker*).

Sir, it will be recalled that sometime ago I moved a Resolution relating to the consolidation of land holdings in this august House and it was unanimously passed. This time I again hope and trust that the Resolution I have just now moved will not meet with any opposition and will get the support of all hon. Members. This is certainly not a controversial measure and I need not make any lengthy speech on it. I shall just mention a few points very briefly by way of explaining the necessity for this Resolution.

We are all aware that the draft Constitution of our country which is about to be enforced clearly lays down that arrangements for imparting education to all citizens of the State will have to be made by Government. In my humble opinion a popular Government or for that matter a people's Government should look more to our educational than to our economic needs. This appears to form the basis of our draft Constitution as without it we will not be in a position to exercise our rights properly. Take for instance the right of vote. Unless and until our people are educated they will not make a proper use of this right. It will be nothing short of the case of a child playing with fire or sword. The child not knowing the use of fire or sword is sure to hurt himself. We should

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

therefore make it a point to see that the masses who are our real masters get the necessary education to understand things. Adult franchise is sure to work hard among the people if they are ignorant. The plight of a house where a servant is cleverer than the owner or the master can better be imagined than described. This state of affairs was deliberately brought about by the foreign Government as it stood to gain by it, It cannot last any longer when we are free. Our people must be able to distinguish between good and bad if we wish to have a respectable place among the nations of the world. If we fail to make necessary arrangements for education the masses would always be exploited by some shrewd persons and the country as a whole instead of going up will go down. I simply shudder at the very thought of such a circumstance and, therefore, earnestly desire that we should do all we can to enlighten our people and drive ignorance out of them.

Sir, when I say that it is the responsibility of the Government to make necessary arragenments for the compulsory education of our people I am quite aware of the duty that the people owe to the Government. I very well know that if we take into our heads that the Government should do everything for us without our extending a helping hand, the Government cannot achieve much and that is the reason why I have employed the word compulsory. The House I am sure will appreciate the use of this word with all its implications. We should never be led away by the idea that the function of men and women is only to beget children. We should know that it is our duty to bring them up too on proper lines. In my opinion if any of us fails in the small duty he should be warned. But if there are cases when warnings go unheeded Government should have the right to use force and compulsion. Ignorance should in no case be tolerated and if somebody out of sheer apathy and carelessness lags behind he should be severely whipped. But all this should be done without further loss of time and the Resolution which I have just moved be put into effect immediately after its acceptance. The enforcement of this resolution I think will result in reducing to some extent the unemployment which to-day prevails among educated people. Many of the Matriculates who are at present doing nothing and are idle would find employment in our schools after a short training of 3 or 4 months.

In the end I wish to point out to the hon. Minister for Education who unfortunately is not here in the House but to whom I am sure my words will be conveyed that the mere passing of this Resolution will not do. It must be immediately translated into action. We do not want to be told that there are many difficulties or obstacles in the way. We want him to take to this constructive work with the same zeal with which he used to work under the guidance of Mahatma Ghandhi. In case it is not possible for him to do so. I suggest that he should transfer his burden to some young shoulders who are strong enough to carry it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Resolution moved—

This Assembly recommends to the Government to take early steps to make primary education compulsory for all children in the Province and to provide necessary facilities for the same.

Sardar Kartar Singh (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly, represnting Layallpur West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker I support the Resolution moved by my hon. Friend Mehta Ranbir Singh and hope that it will find unanimous support in the House. The thing to be seen however, is what action the Government will take after this resolution is passed. The question of compulsory primary education has been before us since long. In 1905 the hon. Shri Gokhle introduced Compulsory Primary Education Bill in the Imperial Legislative Council. Since then every well-wisher of the country has supported this proposition. So far there have been two main difficulties in the way of introducing compulsory primary education. The first of these is the amount of expenditure involved and the other is the paucity of trained staff. So far as the question of trained staff is concerned I think that in order to remove illiteracy, we can do without it. Every young man who has passed the Matriculation examination can help in making people literate. Because such young men can be had at lower salary; the difficulty of funds will also be solved by availing of their services.

The other thing which I wish to point out is that during the British regime the opening of only those schools was sanctioned which possessed nice buildings and beautiful furniture. We should lower these standards and keeping our financial condition in view should be contented with simpler schools. In the past teachers in our country commanded great respect. People helped them in several ways and it was not necessary that they should be paid regular salaries. That system should be revived so that there may be no difficulty in the matter of funds and the cause of education may be advanced. At the same time primary education need not be entirely free. The children of poor people should be educated free but those who can afford to pay for it should be made to do so. Keeping all these things in view, we should try to educate the masses at a rapid speed. Till the masses are educated and their level of intelligence raised, neither agriculture nor industry can progress in our country. The Resolution which has been moved will help the Government in accelerating the work in the matter of education and I hope that they will accept it.

(*At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair*)

Parliamentary Secretary (Professor Sher Singh) (*Hindustani*) : Mr. Speaker, I am sure that this Resolution will get unanimous support in the House. As it aims at reducing illiteracy in the Province, not only will it be supported but it will be welcomed also. My hon. Friend Mehta Ranbir Singh has placed two things before the House. The first of these ist hat primary education should be made compulsory and the other, that necessary facilities should be provided for it. So far as the question of compulsory education is concerned, the Act which is in force in our Province at present was passed in 1919.

[Professor Sher Singh]

It gave powers to the Local Bodies to make arrangements for the education of children in their areas. District Boards were made responsible for primary education in the villages and Municipal Committees in the cities. This Act has been enforced in 1040 rural areas and 28 urban areas. In the United Punjab another Act on the subject was passed in 1940, but it was not enforced. The Government now proposes to bring forward another Act the scope of which may be vaster than that of the Act of 1940. Primary education according to this proposed Act is intended to be made compulsory not only for boys but for girls also. Arrangement has, however, to be made for several things before such step is taken. The population of our Province at present is 1,23,86,915. The number of children between six and eleven years, *i. e.*, of school going age is 18,59,037. We have to arrange for the education of these boys and girls. If we form an estimate taking the average of 150 students in a school, we shall require 12,400 schools in the Province. The number of primary schools which are already being run by Local Bodies or private organisations is only 3,500. Thus we shall require 9,000 schools more if we have to make primary education compulsory for all children between six and eleven years. For all these schools we shall require no less than 24,800 teachers at the rate of two for a school. In this way, the annual recurring expenditure on these schools would amount to Rs. 1,62,000,00. The non-recurring expenditure at the rate of Rs. 2,500 for a school will amount to Rs. 2,50,00,000. This estimate, however, does not provide for the buildings and furniture for the schools. It is presumed that the people will themselves provide for the buildings, etc., but if they want the Government to do everything for them, the work of education cannot make much progress. If we are really earnest about doing something constructive in this connection, we shall have to change the present system of education. The position to-day is that our children even after spending ten or fifteen years in schools and colleges find themselves misfits in life. Unless they get some Government service they are unable to earn their livelihood even. If we were to introduce crafts in the curricula of our school education, our children will be able to earn their livelihood even after passing their primary examination and they will not be a burden upon their parents which is the case to-day. With this purpose in view, our Government has already started a basic training school at Jagraon. According to the new system of education, the crafts to be introduced in the rural schools, will include not only cotton spinning and leather crafts but would also include agriculture and dairy farming through which various subjects will be taught. Our purpose in introducing agriculture in the curricula of our school education is that the students should cease looking down upon the profession of their parents and should inculcate the spirit of self help. But for all this necessary equipment will be required and Rs. 2,500 are meant for meeting these preliminary expenses. This amount, of course, is not meant for the erection of buildings and the purchase of furniture ; that will be done by the people themselves. This non-recurring expenditure will amount to two and a quarter crores of rupees and the total amount to be spent will go up to four crores. But our budget on education which includes primary and even higher education provides

for only Rs. 1,80,00,000 and at present there is no scope for any increase in this amount. Even for the Post War Development Schemes, the Government of India cannot give us more than twelve or thirteen lakhs of rupees. With this amount at our disposal, we have to go ahead with various schemes such as those of female education, social education, etc. And then two teachers will not be able to cope with the whole work of a school when we introduce crafts as well. In that case our annual recurring expenses will go up to three or four crores of rupees. Where would all this money for the running of 9,000 schools for 18 lakhs of children come from ?

Apart from the financial aspect of the question, there is the problem of trained teachers. At present we have got only thirteen Normal Training Schools which turn out only 770 trained teachers annually. We have also started this year a Basic Training School at Jagraon. But these training schools can hardly cope with the demand of the present primary schools numbering 3500 only. If we were to depend upon these training schools, it will take us ten to fifteen years to get the required number of trained teachers. The Sargent Scheme of education was based upon this kind of logic. It envisaged that literacy for all could be achieved after forty years at the enormous cost of 3,000 million rupees. If we act upon the same lines, it will certainly take a long time before we achieve our goal of literacy. Our Constituent Assembly has laid down in its Resolution of Objectives that illiteracy will be ended within ten years. But if we were to depend upon the Government for everything, I am afraid, under the present economic stringency, we shall not be able to achieve that objective. In order to achieve it we will have to change our present system of education for the one which should be in conformity with our ancient culture and traditions. We should start the system of conscription for this purpose on war basis making it compulsory for everybody above fifty to devote himself to the work of education. Every person above that age should retire from life and enter Ban Prasta Ashram. He should take his abode at a quiet place and lead a simple life. Students will come to him and he will teach them gratis. He can live upon his pension or some such thing. On the other hand if we were to depend entirely on the Government without helping ourselves, we cannot achieve our objective. At present only 15 per cent. of our population is literate while the remaining 85 per cent. are illiterate. If we could follow the formula of 'each one teach one', the percentage of our literate people will at once be doubled, without incurring any expenditure. For the rest, the retired persons should be compulsorily engaged on the work of education. This is the only way by which we can solve this huge problem of ours. The idea of removing illiteracy through Government agency only is wrong and needs a change. Matriculates and Graudates should be asked to volunteer themselves and work during vacations or after finishing their studies honorarily in villages to eradicate the evil of illiteracy. The only thing that is needed is to arouse enthusiasm in the young blood and we will have wounderful results. All our efforts are needed in order to remove illiteracy. Mere passing of Resolutions is not going to help. All should contribute for the achievement of this end, so that people may be able to enjoy the fruits of their hard won freedom.

Pandit Mohan Lal Dutta (Una, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, the discussion on this Resolution is nothing more than a mere mental gymnastics. We have a lot of economic difficulties, and unfortunately the conditions in the Province are such that no honest work is possible. Under the circumstances it is useless to hope for any beneficial activity. Giani Sahib is treating the Ministry like a football. Sometimes it is kicked this way and sometimes that way. In this state of affairs no useful or honest endeavour to help the masses out of the mud of despondency is possible. The only way to solve the economic difficulties is to spend the finances of the Province cautiously. The salaries of highly paid officers should be brought down. The Constituent Assembly has set an example in this regard. An announcement has been made that the salaries and allowances of the Ministers and the Members should be brought down. No useful purpose will be served by mere talk. Every one should take a pledge to bring down the high cost of the administration. If the interests of the people of the Province are near to their hearts the Ministers should reduce their salaries and allowances. Therein lies the good of the Province. Resolutions and speeches will lead us nowhere. I wish to submit that action and not talk will show us the way to win the confidence of the people at large.

Master Gurbanta Singh (Jullundur, General, Rural, Reserved Seat) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, the Resolution moved by Mehta Ranbir Singh is an important one. It is a matter of common knowledge that without education nothing can be achieved in this world. No nation can prosper and no country can progress if its youth is not given the right type of education. We in India have very little educational facilities to provide to our chidren. So our children are deprived of the new light that education spreads around. In our country-side there are no satisfactory arrangements for the education of our rising generations. We daily harp on the necessity of compulsory primary education for all. But what do we notice ? There are very few schools in the rural areas. Most of the children have to cover a distance of about five or six miles daily to reach their schools. About female education, the less said, the better. It is sadly neglected. For about fifteen miles you will not come across a girls' school. To female education our most careful attention should be paid. The first and foremost duty of a Government is to impart education. It should spend liberally on this important item and take full responsibility in this connection. The District Boards have failed to discharge their duties. They seem to have run bankrupt. Many District Board Schools have been closed after partition and some more are expected to be closed. Government should take this duty to itself. After partition Congress Government has made many mistakes. In the pre-partition days no teacher was appointed in the Department of Education except when he had first fulfilled the condition of producing a certificate to the effect that he had made some illiterates literate. In my humble opinion this practice of giving certificates which has fallen into disuse should be revived. Special attention should be paid to female education. Rural areas should

not be neglected. Urban population is already in the enjoyment of so many facilities which the villagers never have. Electricity, water, good roads and so many other advantages are being enjoyed by the people inhabiting the towns and cities. while on the other hand nobody cares for the villagers, although they contribute most to the revenues of the State, and provide the best stuff for the army. They are the backbone of the nation and deserve to be well looked after.

I may say at the cost of repetition that it is a thousand pities that whereas in rural areas there is such an acute paucity of schools that we hardly find one girls' school within a radius of 15 miles and a boys' school within a radius of 9 miles the cities and towns abound in educational and other facilities. In spite of the fact that primary education is starving in the villages, the Government is out to make lavish grants to the colleges for imparting higher education in the cities. This unfair and iniquitous treatment of the rural people is most unjustified. I can assure my hon. Friends on the treasury benches that if this state of affairs continues, their fate will be sealed during the next elections. We would not allow anybody of their ilk to get votes from the villages. We shall see that our villages return only such representatives as would look after the interests of their backward brethren sincerely. I would, therefore, sound a note of warning to the Government that unless they take tangible steps to make primary education compulsory for all children in the Province and provide necessary facilities for the same, they are bound to lose the goodwill of the masses, and this loss will certainly endanger their return in the next elections. I can say without any fear of contradiction that if they continue to give scant attention to the feelings and interests of the rural people, their party would meet an utter rout and not even 15 members from amongst them would be returned. I would, therefore, request that when this Resolution is unanimously passed by the Assembly it should not be allowed by the Government to lie in cold storage. It should be given a practical shape as soon as possible. If the Government feels some difficulty in introducing compulsory primary education in the whole of the province, it should at least make an experiment in a few districts. With these words I support this Resolution.

5 P. M.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar (Non-Union Labour) (*Hindustani*): Sir, Government is supposed to know the feeling of the people in regard to certain vital matters having far reaching effect on the building up of the society. So, if the Government on its own initiative undertakes to translate that public demand into action it should bring forward a Bill to that effect in the legislature. But if it wavers and feels hesitant to give a practical shape to that demand but at the same time there is a strong feeling amongst the legislators to see that desire of the public fulfilled, then the latter suggest to the Government in the form of a recommendation made through a Resolution on the floor of the House, and request it to carry out that demand. This is exactly the implication of the Resolution now under discussion.

Now, Sir, so far as the primary education in the Province is concerned, the figures that have come to my possession indicate a

[Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar]

gradual decline in the number of primary schools during the last two years. In this connection I am reminded of the efforts made by Mr. Gokhle of revered memory, at a time when an alien and a bureaucratic Government was in power. He moved in the Central Legislature for the introduction of compulsory primary education in the country but the then Finance Member, Sir William Vincent, evaded the issue on the pretext of financial stringency. Now that era is over and we are no longer under a foreign yoke. Since we are the masters of our own house, we expect some better treatment of our demands at the hands of our own Government. But I am constrained to remark that the speech made by the hon. Parliamentary Secretary on the subject was disappointing. However, there was a ray of hope in that the difficulties which he pointed out in the way of introduction of compulsory primary education in our Province were not so insurmountable as he led us to think. None can gainsay the fact that we have yet to work hard for laying strong foundations of a democracy in our country and also to mould our socieity on those lines. The first and the right step towards the achievement of that goal is to introduce compulsory primary education in our Province. But what do we hear from our Government in this connection ? They express their inability to carry out this proposal for want of money or in view of the present financial stringency. I may point out how Britain overcame this difficulty. Druing the last war there was a dearth of teachers in great Britain. The high class students were asked to teach students of the lower classes, during their vacant periods regularly. Consequently despite monetary difficulties, they were able to get their children compulsorily educated. The Parliamentary Secretary during the course of his speech remarked that the wish of the House could be carried out only if we resorted to old methods of education employed in the Pre-British Periods. In other words he was shifting the responsibility from the Government to private efforts. Without deprecating the need and importance of the peoples' efforts in the direction of such constructive activities, I only say that in modern democracies, peoples, efforts and initiative are manifested through Government's activities. The Governmeat may formulate any scheme to achieve that end but it must give a lead in that direction. I am of the opinion that people can be made education minded and a proper atmosphere for the achievement of that object can be created largely through the efforts or initiative of the Government. I would go a step further. Even if the Government has to resort to conscription for the purpose of introducing compulsory primary education, it should do so, as this sort of thing can be possible only through Governmental action. So what I want to drive at is that in any case, whatever method Government may adopt to achieve this end, the lead or the initiative must come from it.

Then we have been told that it would take years to realise this dream. May I suggest to Government to fix a deadline by which they would be able to introduce compulsory education in the Province ? My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary has stated that they want to introduce basic education and as they have got no money for the costly equipment of that system, we will have to

wait. So far as I know, the basic system was recommended by the Father of our Nation, because it is the cheapest system, suited to every village. but if that system, as conceived by my Friends in the Government is expensive, then let them continue the present system, but our sons have every right to be educated at least up to a minimum standard. Something must be done in this direction. Then it was stated by the hon. Parliamentary Secretary that the primary education was the subject to be tackled by the District Boards, and it was their business to introduce compulsory primary education, and that it is they who should take the initiative. I do not see eye to eye with this statement Government cannot escape its responsibility towards the public in this respect by shifting the responsibility to the local boards, which are financially very weak and unable to perform this onerous job perfectly aud efficiently. The hon. Parliamentary Secretary has stated that the Government accepts the Resolution. That is good, but why then does he advance a number of excuses, and try to frighten this House with various insurmountable difficulties ? I say, accept the Resolution, without any mental reservation, or frankly reject it. I warn that this House is not going to let any of its decisions placed in cold storage, and it will see that every item therein is fully implemented in letter and in spirit.

An hon. Member : Question may now be put, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member can now exercise his right of reply but I expect him not to repeat what has already been stated.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I do not want to take much time. I wish to make a few submissions only, in reply to the remarks made by some of my Friends in the course of their speeches on the motion now before the House. The argument advanced by the Parliamentary Secretary in the course of his speech that the Acts of 1919 and 1940 were already there, does not sound well. These Acts which related to the education of boys only have not been properly given effect to. At this stage I do not want to enter into any further details as these can be discussed when this Resolution is brought before this House in the form of a Bill. What I wish to point out is that the old system is not good. We want revolutionary change ; static changes are not sufficient in view of the present condition. It is really no use justifyiug the old systems ; to effect changes in the entire system is the need of the hour. If we stick to the old systems, I am sure we will not be able to make any progress.

My hon. Friend Shri Mohan Lal Datta has suggested in the course of his speech that we should devise ways and means to reduce our expenditure. This is indeed a very good suggestion. It has also been said that there should be a stable Ministry. I for one subscribe to this view. There is no doubt about it that substantial work can only be done if there is a stable Ministry in the Province. What I wish to submit is this that everybody should think over this problem in the light of service to the masses. It is

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

the duty of the Government to make educational facilities available to the maximum number of people. Government should also devise schemes to make these facilities available in the rural areas, so that the parents of the boys may realize their responsibilities and thus spend the maximum amount on the education of their boys. The number of orphans is not much and Government should bear this expenditure. It is wrong to say that Government should alone bear the expenditure in imparting education in rural areas. I have no hesitation in saying this that in rural areas every villager spends hundreds on marriages. If he is made to realize the importance of education, I am sure he will not waste his hard-earned money on unnecessary things. In fact he will welcome the idea of spending at least the same amount on the education of his children. Government should devise ways and means to make the ignorant people in rural areas understand the importance of education. If need be, Government can use some force in implementing their schemes of imparting compulsory education. With these words, Sir, I conclude my remarks and resume my seat.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

> This Assembly recommends to the Government to take early steps to make primary education compulsory for all children in the Province and to provide necessary facilities for the same.

The motion was carried.

SIKH GURDWARAS IN PAKISTAN

Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail (Amritsar North, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : I move—

> In view of the religious sentiments of the Sikhs, this Assembly recommends to the Government to urge upon the Government of India to take up the question of service, maintenance and management of Sikh Gurdwaras left in Pakistan with the Pakistan Government and get it settled at the Inter-Dominion level as early as possible.

Sir, I do not think there is any necessity for me to impress upon the hon. Members the importance of this Resolution. I say so not only because the Sikh community wants that the service, maintenance and management of their historic Gurdawaras left in Pakistan be entrusted to it but because I feel that the principle underlying this Resolution is such that it would result in an early decision regarding the sacred places not only of the Sikhs but also of other communities. My hon. Friends know full well the conditions under which Hindu and Sikh population was forced to migrate into the Indian Union in 1947 after the partition. I do not think it proper to discuss these conditions. But I cannot do without saying that at that time our Muslim brethren in West Punjab, who wanted to capture the whole of the Punjab forcibly, created conditions as a result of which certain problems cropped up. The creation of the refugee problem was the direct result of these conditions. Then there cropped up the problem of the property left in Pakistan. But the problem of the restoration of Gurdwaras is directly connected with the faith and the sentiments of the Sikh community. What I wish to point out is, how would the sentiments of our Hindu, Bodh and Muslim

brethren having their full faith in their respective religions react if their sacred places of worship at Banaras, Budhgaya and Mecca were captured by others and if they were not permitted to make even a pilgrimage ? Therefore the Sikhs feel very much perturbed over the non-restoration of their sacred places of worship like Nankana Sahib, the birth place of Guru Nanak and the Gurdwara at Kartarpur, his last resting place and such other Gurdwaras. The position with our community is such that its physical body is in India while its soul and spirit is in Pakistan. Under the circumstances I would request the Government to approach the Central Government for getting the Gurdwara issue settled according to our wishes as soon as possible. I have no hesitation in saying that any mutual, amicable and friendly relations which may exist between India and Pakistan, are sure to get estranged so long as the question of Gurdwaras left in Pakistan is not settled according to the general feelings of the Sikh community. Under the circumstances I would once again request the Government to make all-out efforts to get the question of service, maintenance and management of Sikh Gurdwaras left in Pakistan settled. Further I wish to suggest shat this work should be entrusted to the Shromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee which is also controlling the Gurdwaras in East Punjab. Much can be said on this subject. I would, therefore, urge upon the hon. Members to speak as much on the subject as they possibly can. I do not want to take much time of the House, and with these words, Sir, I conclude my remarks and commend this Resolution for the unanimous support of the House.

Mr. Speaker : Resolution moved—

In view of the religious sentiments of the Sikhs, this Assembly recommends to the Government to urge upon the Government of India to take up the question of service, maintenance and management of Sikh Gurdwaras left in Pakistan with the Pakistan Government and get it settled at the Inter-Dominion level as early as possible.

Sardar Kartar Singh (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly, representing Lyallpur West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I rise to support the Resolution now before the House. I also take this opportunity of congratulating my hon. Freind Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail, the mover of this Resolution, on inviting the attention of the House to a very urgent matter. In view of their religious sentiments Sikhs cannot have any two opinions about this matter. In fact they are one in this demand that the question of service, maintenance and management of Sikh Gurdwaras left in Pakistan should be settled to their entire satisfaction. The position of these Gurdwaras has really created an international problem. My hon. Freinds know it full well and they must have read this historical fact in the World History, that the Christians carried on as many as 7 crusades in the world to secure Jerusalem—their most sacred shrine—from the hold of the Turks. They also know that Muslims took great part in these crusades and that much bloodshed was caused in these religious wars. The conflict between the Christians and the Muslims did not come to an end even after the seven crusades. One of the strongest motives that impelled Christian people to fight against Turky in the

[Sardar Kartar Singh]

first World War was the hope of securing some privilges in the administration of Jerusalem. Control of this holy city remained a subject of discussion in one form or the other, in international diplomacy up to recent times. Every well-informed person is aware of the importance that has been attached to this question by the various Christian nations for so many centuries. In the eyes of the Sikhs, Shri Nankana Sahib has the same sanctity that Jerusalem has for the Christians and the Jews. If there can be an international guarantee for the maintenance and observance of the sanctity of the religious places of Christians and Jews, why cannot there be a similar guarantee for the Sikh Gurdwaras ? It is not merely a question of one community, a particular religion or a nation ; the principles involved are of far reaching significance. The entrusting of the maintenance and control of religious places to persons professing that religion and freedom of worship are principles which receive universal recognition in the present times. So there is no reason why the question of control of Sikh Gurdwaras be not solved in such a manner that Sikhs would be able to visit them freely and have their own management.

Sir, you must be aware of the fact that though the Jews were turned out of Palestine two thousand years ago, their attachment to their shrines and the intensity of their yearning to have control over them remained undiminished. Up till recently, whenever they visited their shrines in Jerusalem, they would rub their faces against what is known as the 'Wailing Wall' and fervently pray to God to grant them the possession of their religious places. The wailing and lamentation of the Jews over the loss of Jerusalem was known all the world over. Sir, what I want to stress is that even if people cease to be strong, their weakness does not mean the death of their religious sentiments. What if the Sikhs to-day are not strong enough to get back their religious places ? Their attachment to them is as strong as ever. If the Sikhs had their own independent State, there would certainly have been war against Pakistan by this time. The Sikhs feel that now that they form part and parcel of the Indian Union, it is the duty of the Government of India to show respect to their religious sentiments and put the maximum pressure on the Pakistan Government to agree to a solution of this question which might be acceptable to the Sikhs. Since the partition of the country, there have been a number of conferences on disputed matters between the two Dominions but many of them are of far less importance as compared with the question of Sikh Gurdwaras left in Pakistan. It is an extremely regrettable fact that the problem which is afflicting the minds of 6 million people has not so far been given adequate attention. No doubt from time to time, it has received the attention of the Government of India, but so far it has not been thought fit to put pressure on the Pakistan Government for the solution of this problem. Sometime back, a deputation of the Sikhs met the high officers of the Government of India and acquainted them with the feelings of the Sikhs on this matter. It is now the duty of the Government of this Province to draw the attention of the Central Government to the importance of this question and the urgency of solving it to the satisfaction of the Sikhs. If a satisfactory solution of this question

is not found. I am afraid it will for ever remain a running sore and the 'cold' war against Pakistan will continue unceasingly. Declaration of real war is, of course, a matter for the Government of India to decide. We cannot say when it will think it proper to do so. Meanwhile, we would urge that the Government of India must try to find by negotiations, if possible, some way o healing the wound that has been inflicted in the hearts of the Sikhs as a result of the partition of the Punjab. With these words, I strongly commend this Resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Sardar Udham Singh (Amritsar Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I am in complete agreement with the views expressed by my hon. Friends, Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail and Giani Kartar Singh. I want to speak on this Resolution to elucidate only one point, *viz*, the necessity of bringing this Resolution before the House. It was because the organization responsible for the management and control of Gurdwaras, namely, the Shromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, after two years of correspondence with the Government of India could not achieve any satisfactory results, that the need of bringing this Resolution was felt. This demand of the Sikhs is assuming the form of a movement. Through this Resolution, we want to acquaint the Government with the feelings of the Sikhs on this question—feelings which will not for long remain subdued and pent up. I admit that Sikhs are not in the present circumstances in a position to attack the enemy for the restoration of their religious places but I think it necessary to point out that if the history of the Punjab had after the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh taken a different course and had the Sikhs to-day been an independent nation, instead of speaking on the Resolution, they would have been at the moment sharpening their weapons on the peak of some hill, infused with a burning desire to shed the last drop of their blood for the liberation of their sacred places.

As I accompanied the Sikh deputation which met the Central Cabinet in this connection, I am aware of their views on the matter which are of vital importance to the Sikhs. Sardar Swaran Singh who was present at the Inter Dominion Conference of 1949 knows the trend of discussion that took place in that Conference on this issue. It was proposed to treat the question of Sikh religious places on the same level as the various trusts and their properties. The deputation, therefore, urged upon the Government that the Gurdwaras should not be included among the trusts. Since then no further consideration has been given to this question. I may also state that the Sikhs will not keep themselves confined to correspondence only. The whole community is to-day alive to the necessity of asserting itself on this question. If proper and satisfactory arrangements are not made for looking after the Gurdwaras and maintenance of their sanctity, I am sure the Sikhs will find a way for the fulfilment of their religious feelings. With these words, I support this Resolution.

Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly, representing North-Western Towns, General, Urban) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I rise to support this Resolution. While talking to Sikh children, I have many a time felt that if the problem of the control and management of Sikh religious places is not satisfactorily solved, in spite of

[Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi]

all the handicaps and restrictions, the Sikhs will certainly find a pretext for starting War against Pakistan. Such is the intensity of their feelings on this issue. This is one of the reasons why I have felt it necessary to speak on this Resolution. Sir, we look back in painful retrospect on the circumstances in which Hindus and Sikhs had to leave their hearths and homes in extremely distressing conditions in Pakistan This chapter in the history of India will be remembered for a long time to come. The feelings still continually spring in the hearts of refugees that such circumstances may be created as to make it possible for them to return to their homeland. They are even prepared to shed their blood in their ardent desire to achieve this object. Now the times have changed and the people have made rapid strides of progress in every sphere of life. On occasions they will not hesitate to sacrifice their life, if need be, for the sake of religion whether rightly or wrongly. I have noticed that there is an urge in everybody's heart to fight for a religious cause. In the West Punjab Nankana Sahib was the biggest and dearest shrine of Sikhs where hundreds of thousands of Hindus and Sikhs used to go for pilgrimage every year. The people held these holy shrines in great reverence. Now when they hear that a large number of Gurdwaras in Pakistan have been burnt or demolished, their religious sentiments are aroused and they want to put up a tough fight against those who hold these holy places and to get them back by force. In the circumstances, it is necessary for this Government to urge upon the Government of India to take up the question of service, maintenance, management aad pilgrimage to Gurdwaras and get it settled at Inter Dominion level as early as possible. If any satisfactory solution of this most important and burning problem is not found out, I am afraid that the day is not far off when the Sikhs may prepare for War against Pakistan on this issue. It cannot be gainsaid that Indo-Pakistan amity is essential for the progress of both the Dominions and in the event of War breaking out, it will be fraught with disastrous consequences to both. The Government of India should, therefore, impress upon the Pakistan Government to settle this issue immediately in order to avoid conflict on this issue. If the question of Gurdwaras and Temples is solved to the satisfaction of Sikhs and Hindus, the tragedy of War between these two countries can be averted. There is a growing feeling of unrest among the people who have come from Pakistan, on this issue and distressed as they are, their passions may flare up any moment which may egg them on to fight against Pakistan in order to take possession of their holy shrines by force. It is a matter of common knowledge that pressing want impels a man to take revenge and under that spell he is prepared to take hazarduous and bold steps and gathers stamina to face still greater hardships. So with these psychological conditions of the people, the Government will be well advised to take steps to avoid such contingency to arise at this juncture. It will indeed be rendering a real service to the people of this Province. I had been to Amritsar a few days ago and had an opportunity to talk with the leading Sikhs and they were of the opinion that if this question remained unsolved, they would be obliged to fight with Pakistan on one pretext or the other. It may not, however, be presumed that their intention to do so is with the object of getting back their property left behind in Pakistan but the real issue is that they

want back their Gurdwaras which are dearer to them than even their lives. With these words, I strongly support this Resolution. I sincerely hope that if this problem is solved to the satisfaction of the Sikhs, both the neighbouring countries will be saved of an appalling catastrophe. Moreover, this step will go a long way in creating a healthy spirit of goodwill and friendliness between India and Pakistan. In that case such atmosphere may be created that the people may feel encouraged to go from one Dominion to the other and may be able to live in their own homeland with impunity.

Premier (The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, the Government is fully aware of the sentiments of the Sikh community with respest to their Gurdwaras that have been left behind in Pakistan. I think that the Government's point of view in this matter is also known to Sikhs. A few days ago a deputation of Sikhs under the leadership of Jathedar Udham Singh met the Government when His Excellency the Governor and Sardar Ujjal Singh were also present. They had clearly and emphatically given expression to their sentiments on the issue of Gurdwaras and had pointed out that it was an ulcer which if kept unlooked for would spoil the whole body politic of India. It is but natural that if the Gurdwaras left in Pakistan are not properly administered and necessary facilities are not afforded to persons going for pilgrimage to these holy places, the minds of the people are apt to be ruffled. I also feel that if these holy shrines which the Sikh regard dear to their lives are not properly looked after, there must be acute heart burning among them. The Government is fully alive to this problem and it cannot be said by any stretch of imagination that it will fail to do its duty in this direction. So far as this Government is concerned it has conveyed the views of the deputation to the Government of India. Even before this, all necessary details had been sent to that Government.

It will be recalled that in January this year it was decided at the Karachi Conference that both the Dominions should set-up an Inter-Dominion Committee for dealing with the question of trust properties. Trust property, of course, includes property of Gurdwaras, Mandirs and other religious places. Accordingly an Inter-Dominion Committee was appointed and it was asked to submit its report in this behalf as early as possible. I may here inform the hon. Members that the Pakistan Government has agreed to the principle of excluding the property of the Gurdwaras from evacuee property.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann : But has this principle been acted upon ?

Premier : It is really very unfortunate that the Inter-Dominion Committee has not been able to accomplish anything so far, but the House should rest assured that our Government cannot afford to sleep over the matter. The Government of India has appointed its own committee to go into the question of trust property and to suggest as to what further steps are necessary in this connection. We cannot be satisfied merely with the acceptance of the principle. We have to pursue the matter to its successful conclusion. Perhaps my hon. Friends are aware that the deputation which

[Premier]

waited on this Government also met the Government of India and that Government assured the deputation that it would not wait for Inter-Dominion Conferences, but would immediately write to the Pakistan Government for settling this issue. We are all pleased to learn this news and we earnestly desire that the demand of the deputationists would be conceded at once. Our Gurdwaras are as dear to us as our own lives and there is no reason why we should not see them maintained with the respect that is due to such institutions. We in this country, as is well known, have the highest regard for all religious places like the Mosques etc. When we cannot tolerate the idea of desecrating any place of worship but render all possible help for its maintenance, we cannot see our sacred Gurdwaras neglected altogether in the West Punjab. We must see that the sewadars who are appointed to look after the Gurdwaras are always safe and that the people from this country can go on pilgrimages without any fear. At any rate our Government has given a positive proof of the religious tolerance that is being observed here. Not only that, we have allowed certain Qadianis to stay, we gave the warmest possible reception to the batch of Muslim pilgrims who came to perform the Urs. Here I am also pleased to say that our batch of the Sikh pilgrims that went to the West Punjab came back very much satisfied and gave encouraging statements. I have no doubt in my mind that the relations of our two Dominions will continue to improve. However I must assure my hon. Friends that they should not be afraid of any obstacles. On our part, we have every sympathy with them. (*Cheers*). We shall certainly convey the recommendation of this House to the Government of India with all the force that we can command. I accept this Resolution on behalf of the Government. I am fully aware that the question under consideration is not an ordinary matter. When we think of it our blood begins to boil and tears come into our eyes. I am strongly of the opinion that such a state of affairs should soon end. India and Pakistan should come closer to each other. If some mischief mongers think that by going to war they will be better off, I tell them they are sadly mistaken. Now-a-days if any two nations start a war it will never be confined to them alone. It is sure to become a World War No. 3 and will affect the peace of the whole world. With this back ground I say that it is essential for us to settle the question of religious places immediately. On our part we shall treat all places of worship whether they happen to be Gurdwaras, Mandirs or Mosques alike. There is absolutely no difference between Wahguru, Bhagwan and Khuda we shall have equal regard for all houses of God and in view of this feeling and sentiment, I repeat that I accept this Resolution and shall convey the recommendation of the House to the Government of India with full force. (*Cheers*).

Mr. Speaker : Amendments given notice of by Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha and by Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma are out of order. Amendment No. 5 given notice of by Sardar Dalip Singh Kang is also out of order ; he can move his other four amendments.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma : On a point of order, Sir. I wish to know the reasons why my amendments have been declared out of order ?

Mr. Speaker : The amendments are out of order because they are beyond the scops of the original Resolution.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly, representing Lyallpur East, Sikh, Rural) : Sir, I move—

That in—

(i) line 1, betwcen the words 'the' and 'religious', the word 'strong' be inserted.

(ii) line 4, between the words 'up' and 'the', the word 'immediately' be inserted.

(iii) lines 4—5, for the words 'and management of', the words 'management of and pilgrimage to' be substituted.

(iv) line 5, between the words 'Gurdwaras' and 'left', the words 'and property attached thereto' be inserted.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

In view of the strong religious sentiments of the Sikhs, this Assembly recommends to the Government to urge upon the Government of India to take up immediately the question of service, maintenance, management of and pilgrimage to Sikh Gurdwaras and property attached thereto, left in Pakistan with the Pakistan Government and get it settled at the Inter Dominion level as early as possible.

The motion was carried.

PREVENTION OF HINDU BIGAMOUS MARRIAGES BILL.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Ex-Member, Weat Punjab Assembly, representing Lahore City, General, women, Urban, (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I move—

(a) That the East Punjab Prevention of Hindu Bigamous Marriages Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

1. Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal.
2. Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur.
3. Chaudhri Suraj Mal.
4. Sardar Kabul Singh.
5. Sardar Swaran Singh.
6. Shri Virendra.
7. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail.
8. Master Gurbanta Singh.
9. Sardar Partap Singh.
10. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi.
11. Sardar Dalip Singh Kang ;

(b) that the quorum of the Select Committee shall be fixed at 5.

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

Mr. Speaker, this motion which I am now moving for reference to Select Committee was introduced by me during the last October Session of the Assembly. As it has to go through a regular procedure it cannot be passed even during the current Sesssion. I was told that it was essential to circulate it for eliciting public opinion. This is the third session since it was introduced but now I find that it must be referred to a Select Committee. I do not object to its being passed through all the stages prescribed by the Rules of Procedure. I wish to submit that this Bill has great importance for ladies. The Punjab has always been regarded as a very progressive Province. In the sphere of education, in addition to Government Schools, we have a network of girls schools run by Arya Samaj, Sanatan Dharam Sabha, Singh Sabha, Dev Samaj and other organisations. In no respect can our Province be regarded backward and I refuse to believe that the hon. Members of this House have any hesitation in passing this Bill. There is moreover no reason why there should be any delay in placing it on the statute book. My Bill is exactly similar to those which have been passed in Bombay, Madras and Baroda.

I have carefully gone through the opinions expressed by the public with respect to this Bill. I find that two or three objections have been raised by some people. The main objection is that if a person does not beget a child from his first wife he should not be prevented from marrying a second time. I had this thing in view when I presented this Bill but I find that in some cases, men having two, three or even four children have married a second time. Such instances come to our notice every now and then in the course of our work of the All-India Womens' Conference. Let me tell you a concrete case. At Jullundur I came to know that a person employed in the office of the Duputy Commissioner was constantly pressing his wife to bring more money from her parents, who having come from the West Punjab as refugees had become very poor. This gentleman had two sons and one daughter. When this matter came to my notice, I effected a compromise between the parties. The matter, however, advanced to such a stage that when on Dussehra day, the girl's parents went to her house to give sweets, etc., and the girl's mother requested her son-in-law to let his wife stay with them for a few days, he caused serious injuries on her body and turned out his wife and children. He told her that he could marry any number of girls he liked I immediately took that girl to the Deputy Commissioner to show him that the girl had nothing except the clothes she was wearing, so that afterwards it might not be said in the course of trial that she had removed all her jewellery and clothes. What I wish to prove is that begetting of no children is only put as an excuse while the real object of a man marrying a second time is the desire of getting money. If so desired I shall be prepared to accept an amendment to provide for those cases where second marriage should be permissible, when the Bill is taken up clause by clause. In my opinion, the desire to remarry for begetting children is only put forth as an excuse. When a person's brother has children, he can adopt one of them. A large number of parentless children have been evacuated from Pakistan. Why should not such boys be adopted, if one cannot beget a child of his own ?

There is another misconception in the minds of Hindus. 6. P. M. They think that unless they have their own sons the future propagation of their families gets stopped. Although this is an unreasonable idea yet we are ready to amend the Bill accordingly. And then how can one be sure of getting a son from the second wife when he could not get one from the first ? Besides, who knows which of the two, husband or wife, is medically unfit for the production of children ? In fact what should be done in such a case is that twelve years after the marriage of a couple, both of them should get themselves medically examined to see which of them has the defect. In case the woman is found unfit, she should be returned her patrimony and a portion of the property, say one-fifth, should be fixed for her, before the man is allowed to re-marry.

Again, I have met people who say that Karewa or Chadder marriage should be left out of the scope of this Bill. I am not against widow re-marriage. But what is done in such cases is that if a man dies his widow is taken by the other brother even if he is already married and has children of his own. The argument adduced in favour of such a marriages is that the persons concerned do not want that their property should go into the hands of others. But I may point out that, if the widowed woman has children who will be the heirs of their deceased father, the question of the woman taking the rights of property with her does not arise. If, however, she is issueless, she should be free to marry any other man, may be in the same family, but not that she should be treated as the property of only one man, the brother of her husband, like other property such as cow, buffalo, etc. To look upon the woman from that point of view, is nothing short of extreme cruelty and high-handedness. The continuance of such barbarous ideas among our people even in the twentieth century is really degrading ourselves in the eyes of all civilized peoples.

Again it is said that such a Bill should have been passed by the Central Legislature instead of the Provincial Assembly and then what is the necessity of such a Bill in the face of the all comprehensive Hindu Code Bill which is already under the consideration of the Central Assembly ? The Hindu Code Bill, I may point out, is a very comprehensive measure and includes a number of aspects of our society ; for instance, it has in its scope matters like divorce and many other things. It is so complicated that even after emerging out of so many committees, it has not yet been finalised. On the other hand, there is absolutely no complication about this Bill. Its object is quite simple ; it seeks to prevent a man from second marriage in the lifetime of his first wife.

One of my brethren asked me to provide for divorce in the Bill, because even in the age of Dashrath, men could marry three wives. But I may point out that the people at that time were depraved and such things do not behove a civilized nation now-a-days. Again in the countries where divorce is permissible people follow the saying, Sunday marriage Monday divorce. Moreover they are better off than ourselves and their problems are different from ours. There the women as well as men are highly educated and the

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

former are not economically dependent upon the latter. On the other hand, only one per cent of our women are educated and consequently they are dominated over by men in every sphere of life. Even in this House, I may say with due respect to you, Sir, that we are not treated on equal footing with men. This Bill of mine should have been taken up at 5-30 p. m., but as it is, it has been taken up at the fag end of the day.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Lady Member should be thankful because a favour has been shown to her.

Shrimati Sita Devi : So the women in this country of ours are not quite free. Under these circumstances if we were to agree for divorce, the consequences will be all the more disastrous for our women. They shall be left nowhere. Nobody would like to marry a divorced woman. She will be looked down upon in our society. Exactly this is the plight of some of the women who have been recovered from Pakistan. Our leaders like the late Mahatma Gandhi issued appeals in their favour, but still we hear complaints that the recovered women are not properly treated. People contemptuously remark that they remained with the Muslims. How can we agree to divorce knowing this mentality of our people ? The condition of women in that case will become worse than now.

The public was under the impression that this Bill would be passed in this session and some of the men actually married in haste to avoid it. As a matter of fact, I myself wanted it to be passed in the current session ; but certain legal formalities had to be obsevered and it has to be referred to a Select Committee. All the aspects of the question have already been fully discussed in the House and there is hardly anything left for me to say. With these words, I hope that after the emerging of this Bill from the Select Committee, it will be unanimously passed by the House. For my own part, I have absolutely no doubt that just as the Britishers had to quit our country after all, this Bill will have to be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

(*i*) That the East Punjab Prevention of Hindu Bigamous Marriages Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal
Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur
Chaudhri Suraj Mal
Sardar Kabul Singh
Sardar Swaran Singh
Shri Virendra
Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail
Master Gurbanta Singh
Sardar Partap Singh
Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi and
Sardar Dalip Singh Kang ;

(*ii*) That the quorum of the Select Committee shall be fixed at 5.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha (Jullundur, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I support the suggestion that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. I may frankly say that I am opposed to the principles of this Bill. It does not deserve to be accepted as it is. I am sure the Select Committee will reject it. The Select Committee may, however, improve it. Shrimati Sita Devi has advanced various arguments to prove that bigamy is such a bad thing that it should be put an end to by means of legislation. Sir, I wish to submit that in the Dharm Shastras there is nothing which places restrictions on the will of men to have two wives. Our Assembly should have nothing to do with such matters. When Dharm Shastras place no restrictions what right have we to lay down the number of wives which men should have ? If a man is so disposed he may have two wives and for that, if a woman likes to have two husbands she may go her way. We have no business to interfere. Our business is to keep the machinery of State in working order. In my humble opinion we should not lay our hands on such matters.

The mover of the Bill said that because men could get B. A. and M. A. girls they would divorce their wives but our unwritten social laws are against this type of mentality. So, the mover should entertain no fears of this kind. Moreover, the B. A. and M. A. girls are not fools. They cannot be so indiscreet in the choice of their life companions. In the presence of strong public sentiments on this point there appears to be no necessity for such a Bill. We have not come down to such a low level that the moment we see a beautiful and well-dressed lady on the Mall Road, we lose our senses and try to marry her. If a person gets himself married for the second time, in most of the cases it is the first wife who compels him to get a second wife in order to have children. So where lies the necessity of this Bill ? It is well that it is to be referred to a Select Committee and I wish that they will reject it.

Sir, I wish to submit that the Acts passed here in this House should not go against Dharm Shastras. I have never heard of a law of this kind. If the society needs such a reform there are other ways to make it. There can be a social boycott of such persons who have two wives. They can be compelled by the 'Bradari' to leave one wife or they can be punished for that. In short, there are so many effective ways which our society can adopt to get rid of this bad practice. My submission is that the Members of this House should not pass such Acts for the people. It is not in the fitness of things to go against Dharm Shastras. Nobody will accept yours decisions ir they begin to encroach upon Dharm Shastras. Out of a total of sixty people who gave their opinion on the Bill, eighteen Deputy Commissioners and Sessions Judges have opposed the Bill. The Commissioner, Ambala Division, has also opposed it. The other religious and social organisations have not supported the Bill. The Sanatam Dharam Prahbandak Sabha, Punjab, Delhi, is also against the Bill. If tomorrow the Assembly passes a Resolution to the effect that entry to the Temples is banned, nobody will care a fig for it. If the Assembly makes it a condition for its Members to be without beards no sensible person will accept the Resolution. I hope that this Bill will not be passed by the Assembly.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur (Amritsar, Sikh, Women) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I wish to say something about the Bill introduced by my hon. Sister. But before I begin to say something I request my hon Friends not to interrupt me during the course of my speech. Shrimati Sita Devi has made certain remarks while introducing the Bill. The purport of all she said is that the evil practice of bigamy should be put an end to. She has expressed her opinion on the subject and made a case for our unfortunate sisters who have fallen a prey to this evil practice. But it is an uphill task to bring about reform in a society. Placed as we are, in a society which is not very much enlightened and educated, the task of making reforms becomes still more difficult. Such reforms are in my opinion premature. The time for them has not yet came. From my childhood I have been hearing of Sharda Act. But even up to this day, it has not been able to achieve the object for which it was enacted. In villages as well as in cities marriages contrary to the spirit of Sharda Act are daily taking place. So I think the time for such reforms has not yet come. Besides, I wish to submit that if this Bill had come through the Central Legislature on an all-India basis, it would have been better and its success would have been ensured. However, I congratulate my Sister Shrimati Sita Devi on having put forward this measure with a view to alleviate the distress of women, which they have to undergo as a result of bigamous marriages practised by men.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. Lady Member wants the Bill to be referred to a Select Committee, she must be brief.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur: I shall try to be brief as I have no mind to dilate upon the subject since my sister has very ably adduced cogent and irrefutable arguments in favour of this measure. But as representatives of men are in overwhelming majority in this House, and there are only three lady members to plead the cause of women folk, I would appeal to the fair sense of my brethren and request them to extend their whole-hearted support to this Bill, as it is calculated to end a grievous wrong to their innumerable sisters whose lives have been made wretched by the institution of bigamous marriages. Since the time at my disposal is very short and the Bill is to go to a Select Committee, I close my remarks.

Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi (Ex-member, West Punjab Assembly, representing North Western Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I had no mind to participate in the debate but I have been moved by the idea that since woman is a frail being, it is the bounden duty of man to protect her. I, therefore, rise to support this Bill, though my hon. Friend Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha has opposed it tooth and nail. Now, Sir, I am in favour of this measure, but I cannot conceal my disappointment which I felt on perusing the volume of public opinion elicited in connection with this Bill. I was pained to see that the opinions of women bodies was conspicuously absent. Only the All India Womens' Conference had expressed its opinion but that too in very disappointing terms. It was an indirect expression as it was stated that the people under its aegis and not this body passed a Resolution in favour of this Bill. Anyhow I do not feel discouraged and I want that this Bill should be passed into law as early as possible in some better form. But I have serious apprehensions about its success. It may

go the way in which the Sharda Act went. It is common knowledge that before the enforcement of the Sharda Act, the orthodox people, out of vengeance, gave away their six month old daughters in marriage. Similarly we find that educated girls feel no qualms in marrying a man who already has a wife. I think the position of my sister sponsoring this Bill would have been strengthened if the women had held conferences and meetings in every nook and corner of the Province and flooded the Assembly office with their opinions giving unstinted support to this measure, and recording their strong protest against the institution of bigamous marriages. How better it would have been if the women had carried on a whirlwind of the fact that if a man asked the hand of a girl in second marriage, with his first wife still living, that girl should refuse to enter into matrimonial alliance with him. (*Hear hear*). This sort of propaganda is all the more essential amongst the educated girls, who are prone to make this mistake. I am sure girls of poor parents may not agree to marry over the head of a living wife, but there have been instances of educated girls marrying men with the full knowledge that the first wives of their husbands were living. So what is needed most is to educate women folk to discourage and put a stop to the institution of bigamous marriages. We are all aware that when 'Achhut Udhar' movement was started, the Achhuts were not enthusiastic about it, not to talk of others. But the reformists continued their efforts and succeeded in bringing about awakening in them. Similarly we should also do something tangible in the direction of ending the practice of bigamous marriages, irrespective of the fact that even women were not enthused over it. This reform must be brought about in the Province by force of law and proper and untiring propaganda among the public. To achieve this end it is necessary that we should enact this Bill into law without further delay and send it to a Select Committee to give it a better and suitable shape. With these words I support this motion now before the House.

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

(*i*) That the East Punjab Prevention of Hindu Bigamous Marriages Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur

Chaudhri Suraj Mal

Sardar Kabul Singh

Sardar Swaran Singh

Shri Virendra

Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail

Master Gurbanta Singh

Sardar Partap Singh

Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi and

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang ;

(*ii*) That the quorum of the Select Committee shall be fixed at 5.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 10 a. m. on Friday, 14th October 1949.

East Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

14TH OCTOBER 1949

Vol. IV—No. 4

OFFICIAL REPORT

CONTENTS

Friday, 14th October 1949.

Printed at O. K. Printing Press, Simla 1950

Price Rs. 1-14-0

EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Fourth Session of the 1st East Punjab Legislative Assembly

Friday, 14th October 1949.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 10 A. M. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

LEAKAGE IN UPPER BARI DOAB (MAJITHA DIVISION

*1293. **Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail** : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in the month of June there was a leakage in Upper Bari Doab (Majitha Division) near about village Sahail, District Amritsar;

(*b*) whether any enquiry was made by the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar or Revenue Department in this matter, if so, the nature of such enquiry ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that great damage was done to the Khalwaras of the villages, if so, whether any compensation will be paid for this damage ?

The hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :

(*a*) No. There was no leakage in the month of June. However, a cut was made by some body in the month of May 1949 on the patrol side of the Main Branch Lower at R. D. 180350 L.

(*b*) The local zamindars had approached the Deputy Commissioner who made an enquiry and in his opinion it was not a case of cut. The site was inspected by Chief Engineer and Superintending Engineer and after going through the technical and circumstantial evidence, they had come to the conclusion that it was a case of cut. I have ordered to keep the case pendig till my personal inspection and further action will be taken if found necessary.

(*c*) No. There was very little damage and no compensation is paid when zamindars cut the canal.

ACCUMULATION OF RAIN WATER AROUND VILLAGE GUMTALA

*1294. **Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail** : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in the rainy season water accumulates around village Gumtala, Police Station Saddar, District Amritsar.

[Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail]

(*b*) whether a large number of houses in the village collapsed during the current year due to the accumulation of water;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the bridge on Amritsar Ajnala Road is too small to discharge this water ; if so, what action, if any, Government proposes to take in the matter?

The hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :

(*a*) Yes. Water accumulates when it rains in the deep ponds around the village, but it is drained off by Gumtala drain.

(*b*) No, except one katcha wall which was constructed adjoining the pond.

(*c*) (*i*) No.

(*ii*) Does not arise.

DAMAGE TO CROPS IN VILLAGES OF DISTRICT AMRITSAR

*1295 **Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail** : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the villages of Sarai Amanat Khan, Lahia, Chaila, Thana Gharinda, District Amritsar, become submerged in water due to the accumulation of rain water ;

(*b*) whether the crops of these villages are damaged, if so, to what extent ;

(*c*) whether the Government proposes to adopt any measures to avoid such damages, if so, the time it will take to make the measures affective ?

The hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :

(*a*) Yes, when there is heavy rain-fall.

(*b*) First part yes, as this year the rainfall was of abnormally heavy intensity.

Second part—The extent of damage will be known after the next Girdawari.

(*c*) Yes, the investigation about damage of such areas has been taken in hand and action shall be taken as soon as schemes are ready and found feasible.

BHAKRA DAM PROJECT

*1296. **Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether any reduction has been made in the Budget Allotment for Bhakhra Dam, if so, to what extent will this reduction adversely affect this project;

(*b*) the volume of work that will be done regarding this Dam during the current year and the time it will take to complete the project ?

The hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh

(*a*) Yes, due to reduction works will have to be slowed down.

(*b*) (*i*) Construction of buildings at Nangal and Bhakhra.

(*ii*) Completion of Road and Railway from Nangal to Bhakhra.

(*iii*) Enlargement of Diversion tunnels at Bhakhra,

Bhakhra Project was scheduled to be completed by 1955-56 on the understanding that Government of India would continue to provide the funds and foreign exchange. If sufficient funds are not forthcoming, the works must be slowed down perforce.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Did the hon. Minister state in the course of one of his speeches that the Government of India had agreed to give 106 crores of rupees for this purpose ?

Minister : That was wrongly published in the Press.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Was the publication of that news contradicted ?

Minister : Yes, I contradicted it.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : What grant was sanctioned by the Government of India for the current year ?

Minister : A grant of seven crores of rupees was sanctioned.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Has there been some reduction in that amount after devaluation of the rupee ?

Minister : Previously the Government of India had sanctioned a grant of seven crores of rupees but now it has been reduced to six crores.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is that decision of the Government of India final or there is some hope of getting it increased ?

Minister : We are pressing for more.

ELECTIONS TO DISTRICT BOARDS

***1189. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in a large number of the District Boards, elections were held in or about the year 1938 ;

(*b*) whether the Government contemplates holding new elections to these District Boards in the near future ;

(*c*) the criteria on which nominations of local members are made for vacant seats on the Boards by the Government ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The aim of nomination is to secure representation for scheduled castes and backward classes, experts or business or professional interests, (if these elements have not secured adequate

[Minister for Labour]

representation through election), women, displaced persons, public workers. Only such persons are considered who have initiative, integrity, progressive views and are interested in Local Self-Government, in its various spheres.

TRANSFER OF OFFICERS OF THE CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

*1190. **Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon. Minister for Industries be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of transfers of officers of the Civil Supplies Department made and cancelled forthwith during the year 1949, together with the reasons for cancellation of such transfers ;

(*b*) the amount of loss incurred by the Government on cancellation of each such transfer ?

The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh : (*a*) One, the transfer was cancelled in public interests.

(*b*) The amount of loss incurred by Government was equal to the Travelling Allowance of one Officer from Rohtak to Hoshiarpur and back.

NON-AVAILABILITY OF SARIAS AND PATTIS IN THE MARKET

*1262. **Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether Government is aware that spare sarias and pattis made of iron for repairs of wells are not available in the market ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the rates charged by the Agriculture Department for manufacture of persian wheel buckets have been increased by two annas per bucket (tind);

(*c*) whether Government is aware of the difference in the rate fixed by Government and that actually charged by the shopkeepers from the kisans for the supply of iron laths for wells ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : (*a*) Yes, but the Agriculture Department are making necessary arrangements for meeting such demands.

(*b*) Yes, there has been an increase ranging from 1 anna to three annas per bucket in the price of the persian wheel buckets.

(*c*) No. The Agriculture Department supplies complete manufactured persian wheels to the kisans at the controlled rate but do not supply 'laths' separately.

BAKERY ASSOCIATION AMRITSAR

*1298. **Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail** : Will the hon. Minister for Industries be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether any application (printed) has been received by him from the Bakery Association, Amritsar ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the flour issued for preparation of bread is of inferior quality ;

(*c*) whether Government is aware of the fact that in other provinces maida is being issued to the bakeries for the preparation of bread ;

(*d*) whether the Government has considered the question of allowing the bakeries in this Province to use maida for bread ?

The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Consumers and establishments get the same quality of food-grains without distinction. Under the latest orders they can draw their rations wholly or in part in wheat/atta or barley or gram or their atta.

(*c*) This Government has no information, except that it is Government of India policy not to allow the production of maida. It is possible, however, that some Provinces use maida from stocks imported by the Government of India as a result of certain exporting countries insisting that part of their supplies should be taken as maida.

(*d*) In order to save food, the extraction of maida is prohibited in this Province under the East Punjab Wheat (Extraction of Fines) Prohibition Order, 1948.

INCOME FROM THE MUSLIM EVACUEE PROPERTY

*1155. **Shri Virendra** : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the annual income which the Government derives from the Muslim evacuee property in East Punjab.

(*b*) the total amount realised from the Muslim Evacuee property during the period from 15th August, 1947 to 15th August, 1948.

(*c*) the manner in which the Government proposes to utilize this income ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) :

(*a*) Approximately Rs. 35 lacs are recovered yearly on account of rent of evacuee houses and shops in urban areas. Income from rent of evacuee industrial establishments upto 31st March, 1949 amounted to Rs. 6,52,492. This amount included security deposits made by lessees, about which separate figures are not available.

After allowing 33⅓ per cent reduction in rent, the total annual demand on account of rent in respect of evacuee industrial establishments is Rs. 12,75,994.

[Parliamentary Secretary]

Up to 31st July, 1949 Rs. 94,78,626 had been realised as rent in respect of evacuee agricultural lands in the East Punjab, including Rs. 66,83,407 as land revenue and Rs. 2,51,842 as abiana. Figures of income from evacuee lands on yearly basis are not available.

(*b*) Rs. 1,09,38,644.

(*c*) This matter is still under consideration.

Shri Virendra : Will the Parliamentary Secretary kindly state as to when the Government will be able to decide, how this money is to be used ?

Parliamentary Secretary : That has still to be decided.

Shri Virendra : Has not the Government been able to decide this matter in a period of two years ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The decision of this matter rests mainly with the Central Government which has to settle it with Pakistan Government on inter-dominion level..

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : In view of reciprocal arrangement regarding recovery of rent with Pakistan, is our Government aware that in the West Punjab eighty per cent of the rent to be realised on evacuee property for the period ending 15th August 1948, has been remitted ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I do not know.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it not a fact that our Government is employing rather harsh methods for the realisation of rent ?

Parliamentary Secretary : No, it is not so. If any such incident is brought to the notice of the Government, it would be prepared to take nesessary action against the person concerned.

Shri Virendra : Is the Government prepared to consider the advisability of giving a part of the rent of evacuee property to widows, orphans and disabled old persons ?

Mr. Speaker : Suggestions are not allowed, but if the Parliamentary Secretary wishes to reply he can do so.

Parliamentary Secretary : The Government has decided to give this money to those persons who owned immovable property in the West Punjab and mainly depended on income derived from that property in the form of rent.

Shri Virendra : Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state if there is any scheme for helping the orphans and widows out of the income derived from the evacuee property ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The Government has already been doing everything possible in this matter and will continue to do so even in future.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Has the Government received any representations to the effect that the rent charged for the evacuee property here is exorbitant as compared with that charged in the West Punjab, and that the same is realised in a very ruthless manner ?

Parliamentary Secretary: Representations have been received. But no harassment is caused while realising the rents. As regards the fixation of the rent in accordance with that fixed in West Punjab, the matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Shri Virendra: Has the Government received any representation from the industrial establishments of our Province, requesting the Government to reduce the rents of those establishments ?

Parliamentary Secretary: Yes, a representation was received and it is under consideration.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Is there any scheme for the rehabilitation of the old and worn out congressmen ?

Mr. Speaker : This is a suggestion.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know if a part of this income has been derived from the property of such Muslims who are still living here ?

Parliamentary Secretary: I require notice for this question. All the same I can say that the rent realised from the property of such Muslims has either been returned or will be returned.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Has the Government returned any amount so far ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I require notice for it.

STRIKE OF REVENUE PATWARIS IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

***1163. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :–

(*a*) Whether it is a fact that some of the Revenue Patwaris of Amritsar district struck work in the month of November, 1948 ; if so, the date on which they did so ;

(*b*) whether it is also a fact that some of them were served with a notice to appear before the Revenue Assistant, Amritsar on 20th December 1948 to show cause why action should not be taken against them ; if so, the names of such Patwaris together with the circles in which each of them was employed ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that all the Revenue Patwaris including those referred to in part (b) above, resumed work on 24th December 1948 and also expressed regret for having struck work ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that some of the Patwaris referred to in part (b) above were dismissed on 25th December 1948 while the other were suspended and re-instated later on ; if so the names of the Patwaris so dismissed and suspended but re-instated later on respectively together with the names of the circles in which they were employed and the reasons for treating the Patwaris differently for one and the same offence ;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

(*e*) whether it is a fact that some of the Patwaris were under suspension till 3rd September 1949 were paid no salaries and other allowances to which they were entitled under the rules for the period of suspension up till 3rd September 1949 ; if so, what action if any, Government proposes to take in the matter ?

The hon. Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann :

(*a*) Yes, on 8th November 1948 and 9th November 1948.

(*b*) Yes, as per list laid on the table.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Yes, six were dismissed and two were re-instated as the apologised on or after 20th December 1948. It is not in the public interest to state their names and further particulars.

(*e*) First part : Yes.

Second part : None.

List

1. S. Attar Singh Patwari of Her Circle in Amritsar Tahsil.
2. Shri Munshi Ram Parwari of Sangna Circle in Amritsar Tahsil.
3. S. Harbans Singh Patwari of Loharka Circle in Amritsar Tahsil.
4. S. Sukhchain Singh Patwari of Varing Circle in the Tarn Taran Circle.
5. S. Khushal Singh Patwari of Khaper Kheri Circle in Amritsar Tahsil.
6. S. Natha Singh Patwari of Bhucher Kalan Circle in Tarn Taran Tahsil.
7. S. Harnam Singh Patwari of Chak Mokan Circle in Amritsar Tahsil.
8. S- Mehar Singh Patwari of Kala Ghanunour in Amritsar Tahsil.

TRANSFER OF OFFICERS OF THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

***1191. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta** : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of transfers of Officers of the Revenue Department made and cancelled forthwith during the year 1949 together with the reasons for cancellations of such transfers ;

(*b*) the amount of loss incurred by the Government on cancellation of each such transfer ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) :

(*a*) First Part ... 21

Second Part ... Administrative reasons.

(*b*) Nil, as cancellations took place before any moves were made.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta : Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state the nature of the departmental reasons due to which these transfers were cancelled ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The reasons were departmental.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta : Will the Parliamentary Secretary please define the word 'departmental' ?

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta : May I know if these departmental reasons were not simply a cloak to hide the fact that these transfers were cancelled on account of approach to the Government ?

Mr. Speaker : These are insinuations.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta : May I know what special difficulties led to the cancellation of those transfers ?

Parliamentry Secretary : I have already submitted that those transfers were cancelled due to departmental reasons.

HOUSES FOR REFUGEES.

***1214.** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the total number of houses built by the Government for refugees in different towns ;

(*b*) the number of houses lying vacant in new refugee colonies ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) :

(*a*) Name of township	No. of houses constructed
1. Jullundur	... 500
2. Hoshiarpur	.. 200
3. Ludhiana	... 473
4. Khanna	.. 202
5. Jagadhri	... 402
6. Karnal	... 500
7. Panipat	... 498
8. Sonepat	... 200
9. Rohtak	... 200
10. Gurgaon	... 200
11. Palwal	... 200
12. Rewari	... 298
Total	... 3873

[Parliamentary Secretary]

(b) Name of township	No. of houses lying vacant	Remarks
1. Jullundur	80	Purchased by displaced persons but not occupied.
2. Hoshiarpur	41	Six unoccupied by purchasers, 8 unoccupied by displaced Military personnel, 4 vacant out of reserved for essential convenience such as shops, etc., and 23 unsold.
3. Ludhiana	18	Unsold.
4. Khanna	171	This includes 28 sold to displaced persons and 88 reserved for displaced Military personnel and not occupied.
5. Jagadhri	96	Unsold.
6. Karnal	114	This includes 90 houses reserved for displaced Military Personnel.
7. Panipat	24	24 houses out of 26 reserved for Military personnel have not been allotted and are unoccupied.
8. Sonepat	4	Unsold.
9. Rohtak	11	Unsold.
10. Gurgaon	...	...
11. Palwal	61	Unsold.
12. Rewari	197	Unsold.
Total	817	

The unsold houses have not been put to auction so far, as it is considered that the appropriate time for their sale is after the quasi-permanent allotment of land is made.

Shri Virendra : Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state the reasons due to which the houses still lying vacant, have not been occupied so far, while there is such an acute shortage of houses in the Province ?

Parliamentary Secretary : In some cases, the displaced persons have occupied houses in the cities and at the same time they have also purchased houses in the colonies. But the Government has now issued an order that the displaced persons cannot occupy houses at a time at two places.

Shri Virendra : May I know as o what the Government proposes to do with regard to the houses which have not so far been

Parliamentary Secretary : These houses will be sold after the quasi-permanent allotment of land because at that time the people will know where they have to settle. There is a great demand for these houses.

Shri Virendra : Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state how the Government would solve this housing problem after the allotment of land, in view of the fact that the houses available number only eleven or fifteen at each place ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already submitted that the available houses, whatever their number, will be disposed of after the allotment of land.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state the date by which the houses reserved for the Military personnel and Government servants will be occupied ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The houses reserved for the Military personnel have been placed at the disposal of the Defence Ministry. They are considering the scheme to allot them to their personnel. As regards the Government servants the Government has to provide accommodation to them as and when any offices are shifted to a place.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Should I take it that the houses requisitioned for the Military personnel will remain unoccupied for an indefinite period ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is for the Defence Ministry to decide.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know if the Government is carrying on any correspondence with the Defence Ministry on this subject ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Yes, correspondence is being carried on.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : What is the reply that the Government has received in this connection ?

Parliamentary Secretary : They are corresponding with their personnel at the Kashmir front.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it a fact that those houses will remain unoccupied for a year more ?

Parliamentary Secretary : No, that is not a fact.

Mehta anbir Singh : When would these houses be brought under use in the opinion of the Government ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Did the Government consider it proper to put the vacant houses to a better use ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The Government is prepared to consider the suggestion favourably.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Is it in the knowledge of the Parliamentary Secretary that in Hissar some building material is lying ? Does the Government intend building houses in Hissar in spite of the fact that many houses are lying vacant there ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is not to my knowledge. However if notice is given I shall enquire.

Chaudhri Sunder Singh : Is it a fact that there is such a scheme of building houses in Pathankot and Gurdaspur under the consideration of the Government ?

Sardar Jaswant Singh Duggal : Is it a fact that there is a danger of the houses falling down and that for this reason people do not go in for such houses ?

Shri Behari Lal Chanana : Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state why Government built new houses when there were vacant houses which they offered to military men ?

Parliamentary Secretary : There are refugees in Military also, and they have got the same rights which other refugees have.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it a fact that in many cases buildings are used by the Officials of Industries Department and of other departments, while the refugees are being deprived of any residential accommodation ?

Parliamentary Secretary: This is not a fact. Of course in some cases houses remained unoccupied by the refugees. They were then given to the other people.

Shri Behari Lal Chanana : Is it not a fact that in most of the cases houses have not been occupied ?

Minister : It is true only in the case of some houses but not many.

Chaudhri Sahib Ram : Is it not a fact that building material is lying in Hissar ?

Minister : There is some building material at the site of the Veterinary Cattle Farm. But it will be used only if necessary.

Chaudhri Sahib Ram : Is it a fact that the scheme of building houses by the Government is a failure ?

Minister : The scheme is successsful everywhere. There may be a few minor exceptions.

Chaudhri Sahib Ram : Is the Government aware of the fact that the refugees are not prepared to have these houses ?

Minister : The houses will be built according to needs.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur : May I know from the hon. Parliamentary Secretary what steps the Government propose to take in the matter of building houses and colonies for refugee women ?

Parliamentary Secretary : There is Ram Colony for widows in Hoshiarpur, and as occasion arises land will also be given to these widows.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur : What does the Government propose to do with regard to those women who did not possess any land but had houses only ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Government will consider their case as well when the decision on the Urban Rehabilitation Scheme is taken.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur : But when ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Very soon.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Does the Government propose to give property loans to those widows who possessed some property in Pakistan ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Yes, of course.

Shrimati Sita Devi : But when ?

Parliamentary Secretary : When others get the loans.

Shrimati Sita Devi : People have already received these loans. But women have not received anything so far.

Parliamentary Secretary : The question of giving loans to women is under consideration and the matter will be decided soon.

Shri Behari Lal Chanana : The houses at Gurgaon have been sold, but those at Khanna could not be sold. Why so ? I hope it has nothing to do with Mehta Ranbir Singh's influence as M. L. A. at Khanna. (*Laughter*)

TREES AND HOUSES OF MUSLIMS IN TEHSIL SAMRALA

***1276.** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a large number of trees belonging to Muslim evacuees of Samrala Tahsil were cut and houses belonging to Muslims were demolished by the local persons and refugees ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that these trees alongwith the malba were sold without authority in Samrala Tahsil, if so, the action taken by the Government ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) :

(*a*) Yes, a large number of trees and houses belonging to Muslim evacuees were cut and demolished by the local persons and refugees during the disturbances and soon after that.

(*b*) No instances have been reported in which these along with the malba were sold without authority, nor is there any definite evidence forthcoming about this.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether any instructions were issued by the Government to the subordinates concerned to take steps to protect trees being cut and Muslim houses being demolished ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Yes, Sir.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Did Government also issue instructions for depositing the proceeds arising out of the sale of trees and malba ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Proceeds from auction are deposited in the Government account, but the question of depositing any income resulting from an allotment, does not arise.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether any person was arrested for cutting down trees, etc. ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Naturally condign punishment must have been inflicted under law, if a person had been found committing such acts.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : But is it a fact that trees were cut and yet no arrest was made ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Ordinarily action is taken if any such case is brought to the notice of the Government. If the hon. Member is in the know of any such case, he should report to the Government. The hon. Member will have an occasion for complaint only if no action is taken on that.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it my duty to do the job ? Is it not the responsibility of the Government to find out the culprits ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I do not mean particularly the hon. Member, but he or other public men should report such cases, if they come across any.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Has not the Parliamentary Secretary during his tours of Hoshiarpur and Jullundur Districts come across demolished houses ? If so, have any steps been taken to find out the culprits ?

ILLEGAL SALE OF TREES BY FOREST GUARD.

***1228. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that forest guard, Shri Daulat Ram of Kala Naur Circle, Tahsil Jagadhari, District Ambala, sold out fifty-seven trees illegally and resigned immediately thereafter ;

(*b*) the action, if any, taken by Government against the said guard ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

(*a*) The forest guard tendered his resignation which was accepted. When his relief was taking over charge, some damage was noticed and listed. An enquiry was at once ordered by Divisional Forest Officer which is not yet complete and it is, therefore, not yet possible to say whether and how far the forest guard or some others are to blame.

(*b*) Suitable action will be taken on the completion of the enquiry but in the meanwhile the payment of the security to the forest guard has been withheld.

ENQUIRY BY ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMITTEE.

***1193.. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of cases under inquiry with the Anti-Corruption Committee of the East Punjab Government at present ;

(*b*) the number of such cases disposed of during the year 1949 together with the results :

(c) the number of cases the committee intends to enquire ;

(d) the stage at which the enquiry stands against the officers whose conduct is in question ;

(e) the list of such officers against whom the enquiry has been completed ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bachan Singh) :

(a) 269.

(b) 350. In as many as 301 cases, the complaints were found to be false or frivolous or were not substantiated. Departmental inquiries have been ordered in 8 cases while in 4 cases explanation of the officers concerned have been called for. In two cases the officials have been warned while in another, the resignation of an officer has been accepted. 14 Government servants have been dismissed while 5 have been reverted to lower ranks. 5 Government servants are undergoing various terms of imprisonment while in two cases increments have been withheld. In two cases, the heads of departments have been asked to watch the conduct of the public servants concerned. The remaining 6 cases are still under the consideration of the Anti-Corruption Committee.

(c) The Anti-Corruption Committee takes action as and when complaints are received by it.

(d) and (e) It is not in the public interest to reply to these parts of the question.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know the meaning of the term 'public interest' as interpreted by the Government ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It means what it means.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the Parliamentary Secretary please state why the names of corrupt officials, who are the vile (*bad-tarin*) enemies of society have not been divulged ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The thing is that unless an enquiry against a person is complete, no useful purpose is served by disclosing his name.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will he tell us the names of those persons against whom action has been taken ?

Parliamentary Secretary : If the hon. Member gives fresh notice, necessary information will be collected.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether Government considers an ordinary criminal and a corrupt official, who are both the vilest (*bad-tarin*) enemies of the society, on an equal footing ?

Mr. Speaker : I would ask the hon. Member to avoid the use of the word (*bad-tarin*), in future.

Parliamentary Secretary : Yes, the Government considers a corrupt official worse than an ordinary criminal. (*Hear, hear*).

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta : May I know whether any action is taken against those officers, against whom no legal evidence is available, but are morally considered to be guilty ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Anti-Corruption Committee cannot take any action against any Government servant unless cogent legal proof is forthcoming.

Shri Virendra : May I know if any enquiry is being conducted against an I. C. S. Officer ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Fresh notice is required for the collection of this information.

ARREST OF THAKUR HARNAM SINGH AND THREE OTHERS.

*1197. **Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether he is aware of the fact that four kisans of Una Tahsil, District Hoshiarpur, namely, 1. Thakur Harnam Singh, 2. Pt. Vidya Dass, 3. Ch. Munshi Ram and 4. one other were arrested in June or July 1949, under the Public Safety Act, if so, the reasons therefor ;

(*b*) whether anything tangible was proved to exist against them for taking action under the Safety Act ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bachan Singh) :

(*a*) (*i*) Yes ;

(*ii*) to prevent them from acting in a manner prejudicial to the maintenance of public order.

(*b*) Yes.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta : May I know what prejudicial act was committed by them, as a result of which they were arrested ?

Parliamentary Secretary : A person is hauled up under the Public Safety Act only when he has committed any act prejudicial to the public interest.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta : I want to know for what objectionable activities they were arrested.

Mr. Speaker : That is more or less a legal question. Next question, please.

CORRUPTION CASES.

*1219. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of cases of corruption against the Government servants that have been disposed of by the Anti-Corruption Committee, since the present Ministry came into office ;

(*b*) the number of Government servants who have been (*i*) dismissed, (*ii*) suspended and (*iii*) exonerated ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bachan Singh) :

(*a*) 434.

(*b*) (*i*) 11, (*ii*) 14, (*iii*) 101.

PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT

*1299. **Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail** : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:—

(*a*) whether any committee was recently appointed to reorganise the Publicity Department ;

(*b*) the number and names of the members of this committee;

(*c*) the number of meetings held by this committee and the expenses incurred on account of the travelling allowances given to the members of the said committee;

(*d*) the nature of the recommendations made by this committee ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bachan Singh)

(*a*) Yes. A committee was appointed to go into the working of the Public Relations Department and recommend to Government its reorganisation for giving quick and effective publicity to all activities of Government.

(*b*) The following three M. L. As' were the members of the Committee.

(*i*) Shri Virendra.

(*ii*) Shrimati Shanno Devi.

(*iii*) Sardar Dalip Singh Kang.

(*c*) (*i*) Number of meetings held by the committee= 20

(*ii*) Expenses incurred on account of travelling allowance paid to members= Rs. 1,673-10-0.

(*d*) The Committee has made a number of recommendations which are under the consideration of Government.

Shri Virendra : On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Parliamentary Secretary has made a wrong statement as no travelling allowance has so far been paid to any member of that Committee ?

Mr. Speaker : It is not a point of order The hon. Member is giving information.

Shri Virendra : All the same it is a fact that no travelling allowance has been paid to the members and that the statement made by the Parliamentary Secretary is not correct.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Will the Parliamentary Secretary please tell us as to when this report reached the Government ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It was received by the Government sometime ago and it is under its active consideration.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it a fact that this report was submitted to the Government three months ago and Government was urged to take immediate action on the recommendations but so far nothing has been done ?

Parliamentary Secretary : There are certain matters which require careful consideration of the Government and under this category come the recommendations of the said committee. They cannot be acted upon immediately without being thoroughly examined, by the Government.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Has any single recommendation of this Committee been so far acted upon?

Parliamentary Secretary : I require notice for that.

Sardar Swaran Singh : About recommendations made by this Committee, so far as the nature is concerned, is the Government prepared to take the House into its confidence and divulge the nature of the recommendations as contemplated in part (*b*) of the question ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The House will certainly be taken into confidence but at the proper time.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Is the Parliamentary Secretary not aware that when the question is actually put in the House, it is the most opportune moment and it should be availed of ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The thing is this, that so far the recommendations are under the consideration of the Government. The question of taking the House into confidence, therefore, does not arise.

Sardar Swaran Singh : It is not the action taken by the Government on the recommendations that I want to know. It is the nature of the recommendations that I want the Government to divulge to the House unless they are of a confidential nature.

Parliamentary Secretary : Unless the Government takes suitable action on these recommendations and the time is ripe, the question of taking the House into confidence does not arise.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Is it also included in those recommendations that in view of the fact that we are passing through financial stringency, the expenditure of the department should be curtailed ? Has the Government taken any action in this matter ?

Parliamentary Secretary : So long as the matter is under the consideration of the Government, the question of taking any action as referred to by the hon. Member does not arise.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Is it included in these recommendations that the expenditure of the department should be curtailed ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Expenditure of each and every department is being curtailed.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Shall I take it that Government has not thought of curtailing the expenditure of this department ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The question does not arise.

Sardar Swaran Singh : In view of the fact that the recommendation is already there and that no expenditure whatsover has been curtailed, is the Government satisfied that the present expenditure is quite reasonable ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already replied the hon. Member more than once. So long as the matter is under the consideration of the Government, the question of taking any action does not arise.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Is it a fact that the Publicity Officers have been transferred on the recommendations of the Committee ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Government has not taken this action on the recommendation of the Committee. This is only an administrative action.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Is it a fact that Government transferred a D. P. O. from his district on the recommendations of the committee ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Government often issue transfer orders.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know if an hon. Member who has himself been a Minister and has been giving evasive replies to the questions, can now ask such questions ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Is it a fact that in spite of the fact that the Committee made recommendations to curtail expenditure of this department, Government did not care to implement these ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already stated that the matter is yet under the consideration of the Government.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : May I know whether it is a fact that the Committee in one of its recommendations recommended that the post of D. P. O. Simla be abolished ? Is it also a fact that the abolition of the post would have resulted in a saving to the Government ?

Parliamentary Secretary : No action has so far been taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Committee.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Is it also a fact that the posts of Publicity Officers have become completely ineffective ?

Parliamentary Secretary : This is a matter of opinion.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : I would like to know from the Chief Parliamentary Secretary whether in spite of the denial made by Shri Virendra, to the effect that no T. A. was paid either to himself or to the other members, the Chief Parliamentary Secretary still asserts that such T. A. was paid to all these members.

Parliamentary Secretary : If the hon. Member sends a fresh notice, the desired information can be collected.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Is it a fact that the amount which has not been paid to the members as their T. A. is not included in the amount of Rs. 1,673-10-0 as referred to by the Chief Parliamentary Secretary in his reply ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I require fresh notice for this.

Shri Virendra: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. The Parliamentary Secretary......

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Sir......

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member should not stand up to speak when another hon. Member is already in possession of the House.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Sir, I rise on a point of order and a point of order has preference over everything else.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, what is the point of order ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh: It is this that the hon. Member cannot give personal explanation at this stage. He can give it after the question hour is over.

Mr. Speaker: Personal explanation can be given even during the question hour. Whenever any point arises or when any occasion arises for a personal explanation, it can be given. If an occasion arises during the question hour personal explanation can be given even then.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Under the rules it should be just after the question hour and not during the question hour.

Mr. Speaker: Not necessarily. It should be either after the question hour or immediately after the question arises. I would refer the hon. Member to Rule 39. It says :—

Any member may, with the permission of the Speaker, make a personal explanation although there is no question before the Assembly :

Provided that such explanation, if permitted, shall be made at the earliest possible opportunity before the business for the day is entered upon.

In this Rule 'question' does not mean a question which is given notice by any hon Member of the House. 'Question' here means any motion. It is clear from the rule that the explanation should be made either before the business for the day is entered upon or 'at the earliest possible opportunity'. The hon. Shri Virendra is making the personal explanation at the earliest possible opportunity soon after the supplementary questions have finished and I have permitted him to do so.

Shri Virendra: Sir, the Parliamentary Secretary has just now stated that the Government had appointed a Committee to re-organize the working of the Public Relations Department and that Rs. 1,673-10-0 were paid as T. A. to the members of the Committee. I have already stated that the statement made by him is absolutely baseless; so far as I know, no member has been paid any T. A. Parliamentary Secretary has made a wrong statement on the floor of the House.

Parliamentary Secretary: Sir, can a member speak on behalf of other persons ?

Shri Virendra: I myself am a member of that Committee and I have personal knowledge of it.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of personal explanation, Sir. Shri Behari Lal Chanana a short while ago asked a question about Khanna in which he made an insinuation against me. I wish to point out that this insinuation is quite wrong I am not against the refugees. I have always been trying to help them by asking the Government to build such houses for the refugees in which they can live in comfort. But I regret to say that I have not been able to create such conditions in Khanna that black-marketers can live there in comfort.

Mr. Speaker : Well this is another insinuation.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Let him make a personal explanation.

Mr. Speaker : I expect from the hon. Members that they will avoid all these personal insinuations in the House.

ABSORPTION OF EX-SERVICEMEN IN SERVICES

*1302. **Chaudhri Kartar Singh** : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether all the Heads of Departments in the Province are giving 25% of vacancies in government service to the ex-servicemen, as laid down in the East Punjab Government letter No. 1414-GI-48/38131, dated the 16th July 1948 ;

(*b*) the steps taken by the Government to give permanent vacancies to the ex-servicemen ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the East Punjab Government is not counting the period of war service for the purpose of granting increments in the case of those war service employees who have been appointed in temporary departments like the Relief and Rehabilitation and Excise and Taxation ;

(*d*) whether the East Punjab Government is aware of the fact that the Government of India is counting the period referred to in part (*c*) above in the case of its employees working in temporary departments of that Government for increments ;

(*e*) the grounds on which the East Punjab Government refused to follow the example set by the Government of India in their Memorandum No. 25-1-47 Ests (H), dated 14th September 1947 ;

(*f*) whether the East Punjab Government gives preference to ex-servicemen in the matter of their promotion to higher posts ;

(*g*) the steps, if any, taken by the East Punjab Government to absorb permanently all those ex-servicemen who are at present serving in temporary posts ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bachan Singh): (*a*) Yes. The orders in question covered the period 1st July 1948 to 31st December 1948.

(*b*) Does not arise, since no distinction was made in the orders referred to between permanent and temporary vacancies.

(*c*) & (*d*) There are two categories of ex-servicemen employed in Government Service; (*a*) those who were released by the Miiitary authorities in due course, and (*b*) those who received release at their own request or resigned. In the case of ex-servicemen of catagory (*a*) the period of service is counted for increments while persons of category (*b*) do not enjoy this privilege.

The policy of the East Punjab Government is in conformity with the policy of the Government of India in this respect.

(*e*) Does not arise.

(*f*) No. The question of preference arises only in the matter of initial recruitment and once a man is recruited he is governed by the ordinary service rules.

(*g*) The temporary personnel whether belonging to the War Service category or otherwise has to take its chance for permanent appointment on the basis of seniority and record and the question of any preference to war service candidates in this behalf does not arise.

DAMAGE CAUSED BY NALLAHS PASSING THROUGH THE VILLAGES OF AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

***1170. Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware of the fact that several Nallahs (Rohis) pass through the villages of Amritsar District and during the rainy season they are in spate and damage the standing crops.

(*b*) what steps, if any, does the Government propose to take to bring these Nallahs under control.

(*c*) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the Rohis passing through Tarn Taran and Patti towns have not been taken notice of and their channels have not been dug out as a result of which crops have been damaged this year.

(*d*) whether it is a fact that Tarn Taran Nallah (Rohi) used to pass through a controlled channel but this channel has not been cleaned for many years past, if so the reasons for the same ?

The hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh:

(*a*) Yes. There are certain natural drainages which pass through the villages of Amritsar District and during rainy season they flow with varying discharges depending upon the depth and intensity of rainfall. Important drainages are Patti, Kasur and Hudiara Nallah.

(*b*) and (*c*) Hudiara Nallah has already been dug and it discharges into the river Ravi after passing through Pakistan for most of its length. Patti and Kasur Nallahs are natural drainages. It is only during very heavy rainfall that they overflow and might cause any damage to the neighbouring fields, otherwise their supplies can be utilized for irrigation by lift. Due to heavy rainfall this year the flooding caused by the Nallah caused some damage to the adjoining areas. Control of these Nallahs and their canalization will require very heavy expenditure which will not be commensurate with the advantage gained.

(*d*) The Patti and the Kasur Nallahs never passed through controlled sections and as for Hudiara Nallah and its tributaries they were cleared properly before monsoon.

Sardar Swaran Singh : In view of the fact that Tarn Taran and Patti are situated near the border and in view of the policy of the Government to give greater concessions to the people living near the border, is the Government prepared to consider the advisibility of undertaking a scheme to harness these Nallahs so as to avoid damage to the crops of the people living in this ilaqa ?

Minister : Most certainly.

ELECTION OF L. RATTAN CHAND JAIN AND L. MANOHAR LAL TO MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, JANDIALA GURU.

***1165. Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Labour be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that L. Rattan Chand Jain and L. Manohar Lal, were elected members of the Municipal Committee, Jandiala Guru, District Amritsar, at the time of the last election held before the partition of the Province of the Punjab ;

(*b*) whether the aforesaid members ever submitted their resignations after their election ; if so, when and the result thereof ;

(*c*) whether the aforesaid members were nominated as members of the Municipal Committee, Jandiala Guru, District Amritsar, during the year 1948 ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(*d*) whether the aforesaid members ever applied for their nomination ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Yes. Both these gentlemen were notified as nominated members of Municipal Committee, Jandiala. When the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar pointed it out they were already elected members their names were deleted.

(*d*) No.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: May I know if the consent of the persons concerned is taken, before they are nominated ?

Minister : It is not necessary to take their consent.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Has the Government issued any instruction to the officers concerned that they should in future be careful ?

Minister : The officers are already very careful, though the hon. Members who ask such questions may not be so.

NOMINATION OF THAKUR JAHAN TAB SINGH TO FEROZEPUR AND HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT BOARDS.

*1166. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Labour be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Thakur Jahan Tab Singh a congress worker of V. Kitna, Tahsil Garh Shankar former General Secretary, District Congress Committee, Lyallpur, was nominated as a member of the District Board, Ferozepur during the year 1948-49 ;

(*b*) whether it is also a fact that the aforesaid Thakur Jahan Tab Singh was also nominated as a member of the District Board, Hoshiarpnr during the year 1948-49 ;

(*c*) whether his consent was taken by the Government before nominating him as a member of the aforesaid District Board ; if so, the reasons for the same ;

(*d*) if the answers to parts (*a*) and (*b*) be in the affirmative, the reasons for nominating him as a member of two District Boards at one and the same time ;

(*e*) whether he has got any property or a house to live in the district of Ferozepur, if so, where ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Nomination to both District Boards was the result of a mistake. He has since resigned from District Board, Ferozepur.

(*e*) He is reported to have some land and a residential house, jointly with his elder brother, in Moga.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister please state as to how it happened that the same person was nominated to the District Boards of two districts ?

Minister : It was the result of an error.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Was it due to the fact that at first the legal aspect of the matter had not been considered, though later on it was realised that the nomination of a person to two District Boards was unconstitutional ?

Minister : No. the error occurred because the gentleman under reference had his residence in both the districts. In Hoshiarpur, he has his own house while at Moga he used to live with his brother. When he was engaged in relief work for the refugees in district Ferozepur, the local authorities recommended his name and when he came back to Hoshiarpur, the officer of that district also recommended his name. It was thus that he was nominated to two District Boards. Later on, he himself resigned membership of Ferozepur District Board, stating that he was a resident of Hoshiarpur.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it not a fact that he was made to resign only after the Secretary of the Department had written to the hon. Minister about the unconstitutional position.

Minister : No, this is incorrect.

NOMINATION OF M. L. As TO LOCAL BODIES.

***1168. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the names of the M. L. As. who were nominated as members of the Local Bodies between 1st September 1947 to 31st August 1949 together with the names of the Local Bodies to which each one of them was nominated ;

(*b*) whether any of the M. L. As mentioned above has since resigned from the membership of any of the Local Bodies ; if so, the names of such members ;

(*c*) whether the resignations of the members from the Local Bodies mentioned in part (*b*) above have been accepted ; if so, the date in each case ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad.

(*a*) A statement containing the required information is enclosed.

(*b*) Yes, **Sardar** Narotam Singh has resigned from the membership of Municipal Committee, Hissar.

(*c*) Yes ; on 4th April 1949.

[Minister for Labour]

STATEMENT

AMBALA DIVISION

Serial No.	Name of M. L. A.	Name of Local Body to which he is a member.
(1)	Ch. Jagdish Chandra.	District Board, Karnal.
(2)	Ch. Samar Singh.	
(3)	S. Man Singh.	
(4)	Ch. Sundar Lal.	
(5)	S. Dalip Singh Kang.	District Board, Ambala.
(6)	S. Narotam Singh.	Municipal Committee, Hissar.
(7)	Prof. Sher Singh.	District Board, Rohtak.
(8)	Shri Badlu Ram.	
(9)	Shri Dev Raj Sethi.	Municipal Committee, Rohtak.
	JULLUNDUR DIVISION	
(10)	Pt. Faqir Chand.	Municipal Committee, Amritsar.
(11)	Ch. Kartar Singh.	District Board, Hoshiarpur.
(12)	Master Kabul Singh.	Municipal Committee, Jullundur.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know the reasons for which Sardar Narotam Singh resigned ?

Minister : He can say why he resigned. We on our part have accepted his resignation.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : He must have given some reasons.

Minister : No, reasons are not necessary in such cases. If, however, the Government remove any one, it has to specify the reasons.

Sardar Narotam Singh : On a point of personal explanation, Sir, I had resigned in obedience to the Resolution passed by the Congress Committee of the Province.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

11 A. M. **Mr. Speaker** : Under Rule 10 (1) of the East Punjab Legislative Assembly Rules, I nominate the following four hon. Members as Members of the Panel of Chairmen :—

1. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma
2. Captain Ranjit Singh
3. Sardar Swaran Singh
4. Sardar Partap Sing.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS

Minister for Finance (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) **:** I move—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 11,49,290 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950, in respect of "28-Jails and Convict Settlements."

Mr. Speaker : Demand moved—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 11,49,290 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950, in respect of "28-Jails and Convict Settlements."

Sardar Kabul Singh (Jullundur East, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I rise to oppose this supplementary demand on the ground that this department is not properly administered. I would like to submit that the additional sum which is required to meet extra expenditure in connection with the additional staff is unjustifiable inasmuch as the old staff has not been absorbed. I would quote a concrete example of the low standard of administration in this department. You must have heard, Sir, about the case of Mrs. Saudagar Singh who was working as lady Superintendent of the Women's Jail Lahore before the partition. She has now been appointed as Deputy Superintendent of Women's Jail inside the Hissar Central Jail where dangerous convicts are kept. She has already served as Superintendent of the Reformatory School in Delhi. She did not like to go to Hissar as her objection was that she did not want to expose herself to the danger of assault by any prisoner in the Central Jail. She also requested the Government that she was willing to go to Hissar and serve provided she was given full protection. But in spite of all this, the Government passed orders of her suspension. These are the excesses which are committed in Government administration of the present day. The Punjab States used to be charged with unsatisfactory administration. It was said that the autocrat rulers in the States were obsessed with a notion of dignity and passed dictatorial orders to gratify their personal vanity. Such orders used to invite a good deal of criticism from the public. But I would say that the administrative system of this Government is no better than that of the States, and is archaic and unsound. Another proof of it is distinctively visible in the fact that a Civil Surgeon has been appointed as the Superintendent of Jail and that a vacancy in the Industries Department meant for a lady officer has been filled up by a man.

Mr. Speaker : Does the designation of the man continue to be the same or is it different ? (*Laughter*)

Sardar Kabul Singh : Sir, that is the interesting part of it. The man is working in that vacancy under the designation o Inspectress of the training centre. The hon. Minister in charge should have resigned if he could not remove such glaring irregularities in the department under his control or should have censured the officer who had made such a recommendation. In this

[Sardar Kabul Singh]

connection I am reminded of the mode of justice administered by a Magistrate in Kapurthala State. A case of kidnapping of a girl came up for hearing in his Court. The parent of the girl adduced satisfactory proof that the girl was a minor. The girl herself made a statement that she was a minor. But as the chaprasi of the Magistrate said that the girl was a major, the Magistrate decided likewise. This is exactly the way in which our Government takes decisions.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur: He should withdraw these remarks.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta: I would request you, Sir, to ask the hon. Member to withdraw his words.

Sardar Kabul Singh: Sir, what I want to drive at is that there is proof to show that in the matter of recruitment to services, the Ministers insist upon reserving posts for their own men with the result that the standard of efficiency has very much deteriorated.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. Member has made an insinuation against another hon. Member, I will ask him to withdraw his remarks.

Sardar Kabul Singh: I have only described the sorry state of affairs of the Government administration.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should express his regret for what he has said.

Sardar Kabul Singh: I withdraw those remarks. Sir, I wanted to submit that the Government machinery works so inefficiently that in hardly any case they have done the right thing. Sometime back in a vacancy caused by the retirement of a Superintendent of Jail, the post was offered to one Civil Surgeon disregarding the interests of other deserving persons. I ask, is it not a clear case of favouritism and nepotism ? With these words I strongly oppose this supplementry demand. I know that I should not have opposed this demand as it is one party's Government and it is going to be changed within a day or two but I am opposing this demand so that in the regime of the newly-formed Government the story of the past may not repeat itself and it should eradicate these evils by some effective methods.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha (Jullundur, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I have only to offer one suggestion and shall not take much time of the House. As a matter of fact I do not object to the Demand. What I wish is that some provision should have been made for giving allowances to the detenus and those persons who have been confined to their houses. If people cannot move out and are forced to remain idle, I think, it is only in the fitness of things that allowances should be given to them and their families.

Minister for Finance: The item relating to detenus does not come under this Demand. It is under 'Miscellaneous.'

Sardar Sajjan Singh (Patti, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, if we lock at the wheat which is used in the Jails it will be found that it is absolutely different from the samples which are shown before the stocks are actually supplied. The poor prisoners are helpless and have no say in this matter. It is, therefore, the duty of high officers of Government to pay surprise visits to the wheat godowns of the Jails and make sure whether the wheat there is in accordance with the samples shown or not. This is not the only difficulty. Only *acqua pura* appears to be used in the Jail dispensaries instead of medicines. And so far as the out-door patients are concerned their plight can more be imagined than described. God only can take care of these poor people. I think the unfortunate people who are confined in Jails are entitled to our deep sympathy and attempts should be made to supply them with articles of good quality particularly when our Government expends huge amounts of money for them.

There is another important fact which I wish to bring to the notice of the Government. The salaries of the lower staff of Jails, for example, those of the wardens, etc., which used to be the same as those of police constables have not been enhanced in spite of the fact that the scales of pay on the latter have been revised. At present the police constables are in receipt of higher salaries than before but the same is not the case with the Jail staff. This state of affairs is responsible for discontent among the lower staff of Jails and consequently they have recourse to illegal gratification to make up the deficiency. In these circumstances, I request the Government that if they are in a position to give substantial allowances to their high officers, they should also try to accommodate the lower paid officials.

I wish to lay particular emphasis on the food of the prisoners. I know that for all dishonesty in this connection the contractors are to blame who are not subjected to proper control. It is, therefore, incumbent on the Government to see that the contractors supply commodities of good quality. At any rate bad food should in no case be supplied to the prisoners. These poor folk are usually already in a deplorable condition and become more so when worthless food is given to them.

Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Prabodh Chandra) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I have got up to support the Demand put forth by the Government. One of my hon. Friends, I mean Master Kabul Singh, quoted the case of Mrs. Saudagar Singh. The House is already aware of the whole case. The hon. Premier, in reply to a question the other day, clearly said that this lady had in fact applied for a post in a Men's Jail. In such a circumstance, she should have no objection if she has only to pass through a Men's Jail on her way to the Female Jail. There is absolutely no danger of assaults. And in case there had been any, Government would not have been somnolent over it. I can assure the House that the Government is fully aware of its responsibilities and the likely consequences of the orders which it has issued. I am in a position to say that it was not on account of any fear that she refused to accept the offer and that it was for some other reasons.

[Parliamentary Secretary]

One of the hon. Members happened to criticise the salaries of the Parliamentary Secretaries. This has obviously nothing to do with the Demand under discussion and, therefore, I should not say anything about it

. My hon. Friend Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha in his short speech remarked that he had no mind to oppose the Demand but desired that some allowances should have been provided for the detenus, etc. It appears as if he has not very carefully studied the estimates. I think he will be pleased when I tell him that a large sum of Rs. 1,40,000 is to be spent by way of allowances to the detenus.

My hon. Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh has asked for improvement in the standard of medicines and diet. In this connection I wish to invite his attention to page 4 of the Supplementary Estimates. There he will find that the diet rates have been increased from six to ten annas. He has also accused the Government for favouring only the high officers. It is certainly not so. We have increased the diet allowance of the Communist detenus from Rs. 1-8-0 to Rs. 1-12-0 and Rs. 2-4-0. And if he wishes that we should have provided for all this in the regular Budget, I can only say that over-crowding in the Jails could not be anticipated. We never knew that we whould be called upon to open a Jail at Ferozepore.

So far as petty daily needs such as tooth-paste, soap, oil, etc.. are concerned, it would be noticed that the Government had sanctioned Rs. 5-8-0 per mensem for each detenu. If our means permitted, Government would have certainly agreed to enhance the family and diet allowances, because we feel that when a person has to be deprived of his liberty his daily needs must be met as far as possible. Diet allowance had already been increased from Rs. 1-8-0 to Rs. 2-4-0 per day. Now there is a demand that it should be raised to Rs 3. Another demand which has been made by the detenus is that the monthly allowance of Rs. 5-8-0 for toilet, etc., should be increased to Rs. 25-0-0 so that they might get their own clothes made. They have also demanded more allowance for their dependants. As the Government has no intention to treat their political opponents in any manner that may not be humane they are anxious to remove their difficulties to the maximum possible extent. Some Communist prisoners were on hunger strike for the last few days and efforts were being made to bring it to an end. Any further acceptance of the demand for increase in allowances was, however, not possible at this stage. With the increase in diet allowance recently affected, the vitality of the detenus will increase and this will meet the demand made by my hon. Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh. Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha asked for higher family allowance. I wish to assure him that the Government has this matter under consideration. It is fully realised that proper facilities for medical attendance should be available to the detenus. If a person commits an offence and he has to be deprived of his liberty for sometime, the Government is not absolved of its responsibility of looking after his health. With these words I submit that this is a reasonable and proper Demand and should be passed.

Sardar Swaran Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural) : Sir, I wish that the hon. Premier were present here at the time of reference to Mrs. Saudagar Singh but I cannot compel him to be here and I hope that his Parliamentary Secretary will convey what I say to the hon. Premier. The hon. Premier was pleased to say the other day that the orders about her posting had been passed before a particular date. I am in a position to say that on this point his statement was, unfortunate by, not correct. So far as that case is concerned, the House has already heard much about it and I do not want to say more except to point out that a confusion is sought to be created here by saying that she had herself agreed to work in a men's jail and, therefore, her posting in a Reformatory School which is situated within the precincts of a men's jail was not objectionable. One fundamental thing, Sir, which has been forgotten in this connection is that if she works in an executive capacity in a men's jail then she should have executive powers but if she functions merely as the head of a Reformatory School then she does not enjoy any executive powers and she will not be able to punish any person who may choose to assault her or behave in any manner which is not proper. Therefore, this confusion which is sought to be created has absolutely no force in it. Suffice it to say that it is a case of clear intimidation on the part of the executive to post a lady at a place where she apprehends personal danger. That is a matter which has been considerably thrashed out and the Government took the ground which was shifty and ultimately it was discovered to be incorrect. It is embarrassing no doubt to mention the case of an individual Government servant and much time of the House need not be taken but when such matters are pointed out then the Government should adopt a reasonable attitude in going into such an allegation. The Government should not adopt an attitude of an obstructionist character and try to explain away the matter. We are bringing this matter to the notice of the Government in the hope that if the grievances are genuine, they should be redressed.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar (Non-Union Labour) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, if the details of this demand for Rs. 11,49,000 are examined, it will be found that the total expenditure on 'other contingencies' is about one million. This is to a great extent due to the fact that the population in our jails has considerably increased. This is a dangerous feature and should serve as a warning for us. It has been said that better facilities would be provided for the prisoners. This must be done but at the same time we should not go on making the jails attractive enough in these days of hunger and unemployment while doing nothing for reducing the number of jail goers. Our chief aim should be, reducing the population of jails. In addition to the communists and members of the Rashtrya Sewak Sangh, there are some other detenus also. We should consider the advisibility of releasing all these detenus who can be set free without danger to the peace and tranquility of the Province and I assert that there is a large number of detenus, amongst communists, R. S. S. and others, that can be safely set free ; in fact they ought not to have been in the jail at all. It might be under the exceptional circumstances of the early months after partition, that the House allowed the Government to use extra-ordinary powers of detention.

[Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar]

But things have changed and are rapidly changing. The conditions have much improved and there is no justification for detention. But if the increase is due to the increase in crime in the Province, that is a disgraceful blot on the Administration of Law and Order, as well as of public education. In case the Government will go on increasing its Budget demands, in order to meet its increased expenditure due to the lack of proper and efficient administration, I say, this House is not going to accept that position. It is not going to pay any premium on the lack of administrative efficiency.

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bachan Singh) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, some of the things said during discussion of this Demand had no connection with it while some other suggestions were very important. My hon. Friend Pandit Amar Nath Vidyalankar asked for reduction of jail-population. I would submit, Sir, that the conditions prevailing in this Province after the partition should not be lost sight of. All the big Central Jails and District Jails were situated in the West Punjab. Out of the total accommodation for 34,000 prisoners in the United Punjab, Jails with a capacity for 28,000 prisoners are in the West Punjab and in the East Punjab Jails we have accommodation for 6,000 prisoners only. Then we have to take into consideration the circumstances which led to increase in population of the jails. the House is aware that some political movements such as that of Sangh and the activities of the Communists also contributed towards increasing this population. Besides this, after the partition of the country, the fluid character of the population also led to an increase in crime in the Province. I am, however, glad to inform the House that during the current year, the serious crimes such as murders and robberies are on the decline. As a matter of fact, crime of every kind is steadily decreasing. At present we find that no political movement which necessitates the imprisonment of certain misguided or mischievous people is being carried on in our Province nor are there any prospects of such a movement in the remaining part of the year. Under these circumstances, we hope that neither in the current year nor in the next will there be any further addition in the jail expenditure of the Government.

Again hon. Members should take into consideration the items which comprise this demand. This additional expenditure is incurred on account of the increase in the allowances of detenus and the ordinary prisoners. This Demand also includes the expenditure incurred on the Jail Reforms Committee appointed by the Government. This Committee has done some really useful work. The over crowding in the jails, to which reference has been made by some of the hon. Members, can only be relieved after the quasi-permanent allotment of land when the displaced people will be resettled at different places. There is another factor also which is responsible for this over-crowding. It is the accumulation of pending cases with the magistrates, due to partition. Unless those pending cases are disposed of there cannot be the desired relief in the over-crowded jails. The House should, therefore, realise these difficulties of the Government. We hope that the allotment of land will be completed by November next and then the people will get

settled at their places. This will lead to a decrease in crime and consequently to a decrease in the expenditure incurred on the diet of prisoners in jails. My hon. Friend Sarder Sajjan Singh has remarked that the diet sanctioned by the Government for the prisoners is satisfactory but the contractors are dishonest. They give very bad stuff to the prisoners. I think it should be the duty of every Government servant to see that the contractors do not act dishonestly. I may again submit that this additional expenditure is mainly due to the increase in diet and the improvement in the standard of the same, which is being given to the under-trial prisoners.

I was under the impression that the House would actually appreciate the steps taken by the Government and would congratulate it on effecting increase in the allowances of the detenus and the under-trial prisoners. But I am sorry to say that while on the one hand, some of the Government Officials are still following the old systems, on the other hand Members of the House are also indulging in destructive criticism.

Mr. Speaker: There should be no reflection on the House, please.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I withdraw, Sir.

Sardar Swaran Singh : It is self searching.

Sardar Bachan Singh : The hon. Member is acting the role of opposition.

Sardar Swaran Singh : You will soon get this role. (*Laughter.*)

Sardar Bachan Singh : I may assure the hon. Member that I shall not lose my mental balance when I will be in his place. An item in this demand relates to the salaries of the Superintendents of the Inspector General's Office. The increase in expenditure on the Central Jails is due to firstly the diet, secondly the increase in population of Jails and thirdly the increase in the allowances of the detenus. One of the hon. Members has pointed out that we should try to reduce the population of Jails. I assure him that every effort will be made in this direction.

Minister for Finance (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, although most of the objections raised against the demand have already been met, yet I would like to say a few words more in this connection. So far as the case of Mrs. Saudagar Singh is concerned, I assure the House that the hon. Premier will consider it.

Mr. Speaker : That does not concern the item, but you may give a reply.

Minister for Finance : As regards the other case to which my learned Friend has referred, the hon. Premier will pay due attention to it. My hon. Friend Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha has referred to the family allowance of the detenus. This item is included in the

[Minister for Finance]

demand, headed 'Miscellaneous' and will be taken up at the time of discussion of that demand. Other allowances have also been mentioned. The question of the pay of warders is under consideration of the Government and a decision on it will soon be taken. I do not consider it advisable to say anything about this matter at this stage because no final decision has yet been arrived at. As regards the supply of foodgrains it appears that the supply by the contractors of the Stores Purchase Department will have to give way to the supply through the Civil Supplies Department, because in the first place the prices will become reasonable and in the second place things of standard quality will be made available. It has been pointed out that expenditure on contingencies has increased very much. But it could not be avoided in any way. Whatever the Government could do in the matter of reducing expenditure has been done. But there were factors which could not be controlled. Under the minor head A-Central Jails, for example, the increase in expenditure on contingencies is due partly to the increase in Jail population and partly to the rise in prices of commodities. The sum of Rs. 72,000 shows an increase on account of the grant of daily allowance in Jails to detenues. The sum of rupees one lakh five thousand is on account of Jail manufacture contingencies. All possible care has been taken to include all possible expenses that could be anticipated at the time of preparation of the Budget. But even then some important expenses had to be incurred and provided for. These demands are not heavy as compared with the main Budget. So I place them before the House for acceptance and approval.

Mr. Sperker : Question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 11,49,290 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950, in respect of "28-Jails and Convict Setttlements."

The motion was carried.

EDUCATION

Minister for Finance : Sir, I move—

That a supplementary sum not. exceeding Rs. 2,12,120 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1950, in respect of "37-Education."

Mr. Speaker : Demand moved—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,12,120 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March, 1950, in respect of "37-Education."

Grant-in-aid to Art Colleges.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta (Una, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I beg to move—

That the item of Rs. 55,000 on account of Grants to Non-Government Art Colleges Grant-in-aid to four disrupted colleges from West Punjab and to two newly started colleges in East Punjab be reduced by Rs. 7,500.

My objection is against that amount which has been demanded as grant for the Bhargava Municipal College, Simla. I beg to submit, Sir, that such a case in which a Municipal Committee has been allowed to spend on higher education is unheard of before. The responsibility for such a step lies with the former Ministry and it is one out of the many cases of lavishness and waste of public finances with which that Ministry stands charged before the bar of public opinion. Unfortunately for the Province the same set of people are hoping to capture power once again The function of the local bodies places a responsibility on them for primary education alone or at the most for secondary education. In this connection I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members to para 42 of Punjab Education Code where the scope of education which local bodies could impart is clearly stated. The relevant words are :—

> Responsibility for providing and maintaining vernacular education in the area administered by a Local Body devolves on that Local Body.

The purpose for which the Provincial Government can set aside amounts for grants to Local Bodies for education is stated in para. 43 of the said code :—

> Government will set aside annually a sum to be paid as grant on account of vernacular education.

Sir, in contravention of these clear instructions, grant is sought to be given to the Bhargava Municipal College which has been started within the municipal limits of Simla. The public opinion was against the opening of such a College. But in spite of that it was opened. To a question asked in the Municipal Committee on February 1948, the Secretary replied that neither the Municipal Committee could bear the burden of starting a College, nor was it in its power to open such a big college. Then this budget was sent to the Commissioner. He, too, pointed out that the incurring of heavy expenditure in connection with the Bhargava College did not fall within the purview of the Municipality. Yet the College was started and a lakh of rupees was spent last year over it. A provision to the tune of Rs. 180 thousands has been made in the budget for 1949-50. If this expenditure continued to increase in this manner, the Municipality is bound to go bankrupt in a short time, as it will not be able to bear the ever increasing burden of the Bhargava College. The whole income will be consumed by this institution and other vital and most important functions of the Committee, namely sanitation, primary education of the children and provision of other amenities necessary for civil life, will enormously suffer for want of funds. Hon. Members are well aware how the standard of sanitation in Simla has gone down and we often see heaps of refuse lying in the lanes and streets. Now we hear that the Municipality contemplates to impose taxes on the poor people with a view to meeting the ever increasing demands of the newly opened college. It simply passes one's comprehension why this college has been started at Simla which already had one first grade college, namely the S. D. College. It would not be wrong to say that Bhargava College has been opened, not that there was a pressing need for it but because the vanity of an hon. Minister was to be satisfied.

Mr. Speaker : So far the hon. Member has been proceeding nicely and I was thinking of congratulating him. I would expect him not to make personal reflections against any Member of the House and proceed in the manner he was speaking before.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta : Sir, I am sorry to have used those words.

Mr. Speaker : The object of the hon. Member is to canvass through the Chair, other Members of the House. This can be done by addressing the Chair and remaining strictly impersonal in his speech. The hon. Member can discuss the subject in a general manner without being personal to any body.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta : Very well, Sir. It goes without saying that we are passing through a difficult period— a period of an unprecedented financial stringency. It behoves the Government to save every pie and refrain from throwing away the hard earned money of the taxpayer on unnecessary things. When we ask the Government to open primary schools in certain backward areas, at once comes the reply that lack of funds stands in the way. But they would not mind squandering money on projects like the Bhargava College which has been opened to satisfy the needs of the capitalists. Keeping all this in view an impartial observer would also come to the same conclusion. I would, therefore, tell the Government that it is high time that it cried halt to this waste of money. It is not wise to finance big colleges when even primary education in the rural areas is suffering for want of schools, and private institutions are on the verge of collapse for lack of funds. It would go to their credit if instead of spending a lot on the colleges, they open high and primary schools for the liquidation of illiteracy in the rural areas and make grants to the deserving private institutions. In this connection I am reminded of a Punjabi adage ;

ਬਗਾਨੇ ਪੇਟ ਮੁਕੀਆਂ ਤੇ ਅਪਨਾ ਦਿਲ ਦਰਿਆ ।

बगाने पेट मुकियां ते अपना दिल दरया ।

which aptly applies to the Government. With these words I strongly oppose the demand under consideration and would appeal to the House to refuse sanction of this item.

Mr. Speaker Demand under consideration, motion moved:—

> That the item of Rs. 55,000 on account of Grants to Non-Government Art Colleges-Grant-in-Aid to four disrupted colleges from West Punjab and to two newly started colleges in East Punjab—be reduced by Rs. 7,500.

Sardar Swaran Singh : (Jullundur West, Sikh. Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, so far as this Demand is concerned, I must say that Government deserves our congratulations. Although it has set apart a small amount for this purpose yet it goes to its credit that this matter has not escaped its attention. It goes without saying that the existing arrangements for imparting higher education in the East Punjab are not sufficient. This is due to the fact that all our educational institutions, which we were proud of, have been left in the West Punjab as a result of partition. Lahore was not only the political Capital of Punjab but it was also one of the best educational centres of India. Besides Lahore we had

both Government and non-official educational institution of a high order at Lyallpur and Montgomery, which too have been left on the other side of the border. So when our unfortunate brethren were forced to migrate to this side leaving property worth hundreds of crores of rupees, they had also to leave their educational institutions which were built up with their life-blood. Apart from this the student population which came over to this side was much larger than the one left in the West Punjab. Consequently the number of students in this Province increased enormously and the institutions existing here could not cope with their requirements. As a result of this the student community suffered a lot.

Now, Sir, in the present democratic set up provision of suitable educational intitutions is most essential because the ultimate responsibility for educating the society and producing leaders of eminence and literators of high calibre, devolves on the people. But from the education point of view our people received a stunning blow from partition. The refugee managing bodies and professors who suffered a lot did not lose heart and I must pay a high tribute to the initiative and resourcefulness with which they have rehabilitated themselves and the refugee colleges. They have settled down to work without any outside help. Under the circumstances when Government has already spent crores of rupees on the rehabilitation of refugees, it is also in the fitness of things and equally necessary on the part of the Government to divert its attention towards the education of the masses in general and our refugee brethren in particular. It is not so easy on the part of the Government in our present financial position to set up a College as some of the hon. Members seem to think. Therefore, the more the encouragement is given to these private institutions including colleges and high schools which have been up-rooted from the West Punjab and which have now migrated to this Province, the better for all concerned. So far as the amount of Rs. 7,500 which it is intended to be given to these colleges is concerned, I feel that this amount is quite insufficient. If we work out the figures, we will find that it will come to about 6 or 7 hundred a month which in other words would amount to the salary of two professors only. It is abundantly clear from this that this amount is quite insufficient. On the other hand maximum amount should be made available to these institutions. If this is not done, I am sure the standard of these colleges which are doing a very useful work in the matter of education, would become very low as a result of which these very institutions would be forced by circumstances to stop functioning. The educational institutions in general and the private institutions in particular have rendered a yeoman's service from education point of view. Criticism has been advanced from time to time to the effect that these private institutions are denominational institutions and that the institutions managed by bodies of persons belonging to different religions do not produce any good and useful citizens. I have no intention to enter into any controversy whether or not there is any truth in this criticism. However, I have no hesitation in saying that even the maximum possible

12 NOON

[Sardar Swaran Singh]

facilities, if made available to these educational institutions, are quite insufficient to the needs of the hour.

Further I wish to submit that our colleges are so much overcrowded that in some of the colleges the roll has gone up to 1,500 or 1,600. Mr. Speaker, you can very well imagine if it is possible to impart real education to more than one thousand students in an institution. It is crystal clear from this that the contact between the teacher and the taught, which is an essential factor in modern education, cannot be practicable in such institutions. Under the circumstances the setting up of maximum number of new institutions and at the same time providing adequate grant-in-aid facilities to private institutions, constitutes the real service to our country. If we compare item No. 7 on page 8 of the Supplementary Estimates with the other items, we will find that the amount provided in it, is quite inadequate to and insufficient. Again if we study item No. 2 on page 7 we will find that an amount of Rs. 97,210 is provided for additional expenditure on furniture equipment and apparatus, etc., for Government Colleges. It is clear from this that an amount as much as Rs. 97,210 has been provided for some articles of furniture, etc., and if we compare this amount with Rs. 7,500 we will find that the latter is quite insufficient. Further I wish to point out that the standard of such colleges can only be maintained if there are satisfacotry arrangements for the teachers and the taught. This year the results of the University Examinations have been very disappointing as the pass percentage is very low. This has simply been due to the disruption in the studies caused by the partition. In this confusion the students lost their mental balance and could not focus their attention on their studies as they would have otherwise done. It is, therefore, incumbent on the part of the Government to revive the mental composure of the student body, and check the under-current of dissatisfaction amongst them. So long as we do not put this young generation into the right channels of our constructive programme by providing them with the right type of education, we shall not be able to administer an effective check upon their restless young minds. They are a sacred trust in our hands and moulding them according to the right pattern, will enable us to have the right type of masters and makers of the future nation. Any omission on our part in this direction will, I am sure, hold us guilty in the eyes of the coming generations. If the finances permit, it is but meet and proper on the part of the Government to set up as many educational institutions as possible and no amount would be too much if spent to achieve this end.

There is one point more to which I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members and that is that we should avoid soaring high in the imaginary atmosphere of misunderstanding. It is not right to think that lack of funds is a handicap in encouraging such useful institutions. On the other hand we should try to make available as much money as possible for private institutions including institutions run by the Municipal Committees and the Local Boards. My hon. Friend Pandit Mohan Lal Datta has in the course of his speech said that too much money has been spent on

the Bhargava College. It seems that the objection raised by him is not so much against the aim of the institution as it is against its name. The very name of the college works as a red rag to the bull with respect to my hon. Friend. So far as Simla is concerned, the population has increased manifold and in the present circumstances, the Muncipal Committee has really relieved the Government of a big burden for which we ought to thank them. The argument that instead of wasting money on this college, the Municipal Committee ought to have spent on primary education, does not sound well. The opening ceremoney of this college was perfoomed by no less a person than His Excellency Shri Raja Gopalachariya, the first Indian Governor General, who commended such a move on the part of the Municipal Committee. For a paltry sum of Rs. 7,500 which the Government intends to grant, my hon. Friend Shri Mohan Lal Datta has not only opposed this institution but he has also gone to the extent of strongly opposing all the educational institutions.

Mr. Speaker : Please do not impute any motives.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Sir, I am not imputing any motives. I am only trying to analyse the psychological background which prompted certain involuntary remarks from him without meaning anything personal.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta : Why is the hon. Member getting disappointed at the so-called psychological background ?

Sardar Swaran Singh : My hon. Friend is getting unnecessarily upset. I did not mean to cast any aspersion on him.

In the end, I would once again urge that we should spend on education as much as possible, not only on collegiate education but on secondary and primary education as well. It is only then that our Province will be able to occupy a place of honour and pride in the field of educational progress and compete with other Provinces.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly, representing Lahore City, General, Women, Urban) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I do not say that the supplementary demand that has been made in respect of education is excessive. Imparting of education to the people is an activity of such a great importance that any expenditure would be justified for its promotion. Even if a higher demand had been made we would have gladly sanctioned it. But what is needed most is that the money earmarkedfor this purpose should be properly spent, because the importance of education as builder of national character can hardly be over-estimated. The condition of education has greatly deteriorated since the partition of the Province. In the United Punjab, there used to be scores of privately managed educational institutions, run by religious organizations like the Arya Samaj, Sanatan Dharm, Brahmo Samaj and so on. The number of private schools was large enough to accommodate all those students who could not get admission to the Government Schools. There was thus no difficulty for anyone in the way of acquiring education. Partition has upset everything. Education has been the worst sufferer.

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

Sir, though I do not deny the need of opening more Colleges. I must say that there is a greater necessity of providing primary education since, if this is neglected, our next generation would consist of mostly illiterate people. If arrangements are not made for imparting education to children, they will most surely fall into evil habits and habits formed in childhood, the most impressionable period of one's life, are very difficult to shake off.

Mr. Speaker : That would come under the general policy of the Government.

Shrimati Sita Devi : I have just begun. Ultimately I will prove the connection between what I am saying and the motion under discussion.

Mr. Speaker : I would remined the hon. Lady Member that a Supplementary Demand is quite different from the general budget, In the case of general budget, it is open to any Member to discuss the educational policy of the Government or to raise any other matter connected with the Demand. But in the case of a Supplementary Demand, discussion should be confined to the items contained in that Demand. The cut motion of Pandit Mohan Lal Datta is under discussion. The hon. Lady Member can either speak on the cut motion or speak on any other item contained in the Demand. It is not open to her to raise a discussion on the general policy of the Government relating to education.

Shrimati Sita Devi : I want to speak on the cut motion moved in connection with the grant proposed for the Bhargava Municipal College. In this connection I want to submit that primary education is comparatively more important than collegiate education. First things should come first. One should be able to afford bread before desiring sweets. I would put this matter thus. So long as arrangements do not exist for the education of children, so long as the children are wasting their time on streets and roads, selling this thing or that thing, it will be no use spending on higher education. Primary education is the essential need of the time. Daily I come across young boys of tender age working as coolies in the streets of Jullundur. It pains my heart to see children of school going age, toiling to earn their bread. When I ask them if they used to work as coolies before the partition, the reply I get is always in the negative. Every boy tells me that he was studying in some school but his parents now cannot give him education, being too poor to feed him even. In a Province where the plight of children is so miriable it is rather un-understandable why anything should have been spent on opening a new college.

Then, Sir, if the college in question had been opened at some place in the plains where the colleges are already over-crowded and where students cannot get admission, there would have been some justification for it. I wonder why for the sake of some officer's sons, a new college was opened at Simla, where a college was already functioning. It would have been better if this college had been

opened at a place, where there is already none. Sir, it is far from me to say that nothing should be spent on higher education. I only want to stress that primary education is the essential pre-requisite ; and when money is not available for this purpose, why should new colleges be opened ? Sometime back a deputation waited upon the hon. Minister for Education to stress the imperative need of opening more primary schools. The hon. Minister expressed his helplessness in the matter for want of funds. It was then suggested that arrangements for double shift should be made in every school. He replied that orders to this effect had already been issued. I do not know why the system of double shift has not been introduced so far. I once again repeat the same request and urge the Government that the maximum possible money should be spent on primary education, and saving should be made from all other expenditure, I am surprised to find that while only an additional sum of Rs. 6,550 has been earmarked for primary education, a sum of Rs. 97,210 is proposed to be given as grant for purchasing furniture for the Bhargava Municipal College at Simla. I am all the more surprised at the amount. *i. e.*, Rs. 4,140, spent on two iron safes for the Office of the Director of Public Instruction. I have pointed out these instances in order to impress upon the hon. Minister the necessity of spending money in such a way as may be calculated to do the greatest good to the greatest number of people, and not merely for the benefit of the wealthier section of people.

Minister for Finance : As guillotine is to be applied at 12-45, I hope I will be given sometime to reply to the criticism of hon. Members on this Demand.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi (Ex-member, West Punjab Assembly, representing Lyallpur and Jhang, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, Demand No. 2 partially relates to the grant-in-aid to four disrupted colleges from West Punjab and to two new colleges in East Punjab. If we look back to the history of these Colleges, we will find that the D. A. V. College, Lahore, was founded by Mahatma Hans Raj and his colleagues. The Sikh National College was opened by patriots like S. Narinjan Singh, while the other two Colleges, namely S. D. College Lahore and Khalsa College, Lyallpur, were being managed by private funds. I must say that provision of the grant of Rs. 10,000 to these Colleges is decidedly a good gesture on the part of the Government and I appreciate that the Government has given this financial assistance to them when they needed it most to rehabilitate themselves. But at the same time I cannot help saying that the grant is inadequate as compared to a host of problems *i. e.*, setting up of fully equipped libraries and laboratories, providing increased accomodation which in the present state of circumstances it is impossible for them to solve unaided. It has become exceedingly difficult for these institutions to provide additional accomodation in their school buildings by raising public subscriptions as huge expenditure is involved on building operations. This however cannot wait for long especially when the number of students has greatly increased. The difficulties of the students can well be imagined when they have been refused admission to the various schools on

[Shri Dev Raj Sethi]

the plea of inadequacy of accommodation. In Ludhiana, five thousand students applied for admission out of whom only one thousand could be admitted and the remaining four thousand had to go disappointed for want of accommodation. Besides this, the arrangement for science students is not satisfactory in these colleges for want of well-equipped laboratories. Keeping in view all these short-comings, Government should raise the limit of this grant to these refugee colleges to alleviate their financial difficutlies. Moreover, Sir, I would like to point out that the opening of the Bhargava College by the Municipal Committee, Simla, is a real service to students, particularly those who have been displaced, and the Municipal Committee deserves to be congratulated on such a step. It is not an honour to Doctor Bhargava after whom it is named. But in fact Dr. Bhargava has done an honour to the college by allowing his name to be associated with this institution.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta : Sir, can any hon. Member say anything in praise of a Minister while speaking on the cut motion ?

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : I would request the hon. Member not to feel perturbed. I say that this Province should feel proud of having such a public servant as Dr. Gopi Chand. In fact he is the first servant of this Province So far as the Bhargava College is concerned, it was opened by the Municipal Committee, Simla, on the advice of educationists and other experts. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker : Order, order.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : I would request the hon. Members to listen to me patiently. The opening of this college at such a big hill station like Simla was very necessary and it has served a very useful purpose in meeting the needs of student community. A grant of Rs. 7,500 for two college is not much and I wish that more money is made available for these institutions. With these words, Sir, I strongly support this Demand.

Minister for Finance (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, an objection has been raised that provision should have been made for primary and higher school education and that the Government should not have given this aid to these colleges. So far as the opening of Municipal College in Simla is concerned, I may point out that the Municipal Committee was not out of its domain if it opened a college here. It should not look strange if the grants-in-aid have been given to these refugee colleges because it is customary for the Government to give such grants-in-aid to such institutions. The question of giving grants was pressed before us as they stood in great need for financial assistance. I would like to quote from the Municipal Act, Section 52 (2) (*c*) of this Act refers to :—

> The construction, establishment and maintenance of schools, hospitals and dispensaries and other institutions for promotion of education or for the benefit of the public health and of rest houses, sarais, poor houses, markets, encamping grouuds and other works of public utility and the control and administration of public institutions of any of these descriptions.

Before the opening of this college, the Municipal Committee consulted me and I was of the opinion that a girls college should be opened. A committee for this purpose was constituted consisting of Judges of High Court and other prominent educationists and it advised that a boys college should be opened and it was on their advise that this Municipal College was opened. The President of the Municipal Committee expressed his desire to me to approach His Excellency the Governer General who is a Bhargava to perform its opening ceremoney. Accordingly he was approached and he kindly consented to perform its opening ceremony.

An objection has been raised that there was no need for opening this college. But I may point out that the Municipal Committee opened this college on the advise of its educational advisers and other experts. I feel that more colleges should be opened to meet the needs of the large number of students who have come from West Punjab. When the East Punjab University came into existence, there were only 34 institutions in the East Punjab. Pepsu and Jammu and Kashmir were also affiliated to this University. The number of Government colleges was only five or six and the rest were private insitutions. Keeping in view the needs of the student community the Municipal Committee opened a college in Simla on the suggestion of educational advisers. I think there is a great demand for colleges and the Municipal Committee of Simla has done a great service to the public by opening one. The proof of this will be found in the fact that the Committee has been approached by over forty students to start the M. A. classes. But somehow the Committee has not been able to accede to their request so far though the college has been affiliated to the University for these classes.

The fifth college is the Gandhi National Memorial College at Ambala. This in a way is also a refugee college. It is named after Mahatmaji and is being run by some people from Rawalpindi. Ambala has four colleges but there are so many students at that place that there appears to be need for more colleges. Now it is learnt that the Dayal Singh Trust has decided to open a college at Karnal. It is very good of them indeed as a college is badly needed there and we should be thankful to them. We should not grudge them assistance if they ask for it. We should not tell them that we do not want to have more colleges as we are to arrange for primary education. Primary education must certainly be given the importance which is due to it but in my humble opinion if we want more primary schools we also stand in need of more colleges. The primary education as hon. Members are aware is entrusted to the Local Boards and the Government by way of subsidy gives to some colleges certain percentage of their expenditure. The Government cannot and does not meet the whole of their expenditure. It only gives them a token assistance in order to help them make up their deficit.

A lot has been said about the Bhargava College. This college has also been opened for the benefit of the displaced students. If there were no displaced students, I can assure you, there would have

[Minister for Finance]

been no college. As a matter of fact I am very glad that the Municipality has opened it and the Government is saved a good deal of expense. It is not possible for the Government to open many colleges. Even in accordance with the post war schemes, it is hardly possible for the Government to open a college in three or four years. In these circumstances when the Municipal Committee of Simla extended a helping hand to the Government, it did not behove the latter to refuse a patty sum of Rs. 7,500 to the former by way of assistance. All the displaced colleges asked us for building and library grants and I wrote to the Government of India that they should try to help them from the money set apart for rehabilitation. Our colleges have lost owing to partition the prosperity and glory that they enjoyed in the West Punjab and we have to see that they get the maximum possible assistance so that they are enabled to surpass their past standards. True the Government has to look to its own financial position but there are things which have to be done. For example we must open more science and professional colleges if we have to make any progress. I am also in favour of opening more primary and secondary schools but I think this is essentially the work of Local Boards. Of course, the Government should give them liberal subsidies for this purpose. However, it will be agreed that we cannot put a stop to activities other than this programme. There are a little over forty colleges affiliated to the East Punjab University and out of these only nine are maintained by the Government and the Local Boards. All others are privately managed and get token grants from the Government. At any rate I have not clearly understood the intention of some of the hon. Members who have offered criticism in connection with colleges. Perhaps they mean to suggest that all colleges should be closed. But I ask whether it is possible to do so. In case we close the colleges, I think there would be no necessity of the high schools. If we discontinue the science classes, there is no sense in maintaining the Medical and the Engineering Colleges, as the professional colleges depend on the teaching of science. Anyhow I fail to follow the arguments of my hon. Friends. To my mind the financial assistance of Rs. 7,500 to the Bhargava College has been pinching them. They should realize that a small amount of Rs. 7,500 does not go very far in meeting the total expenditure which is being incurred by the rich Municipality of Simla. They should also not criticize the Municipality for this noble deed. As a matter of fact we should praise this Municipality for opening the college, the library and other similar institutions. In this way it will be encouraged to render greater service to the people.

Coming to the displaced colleges again, I am to say that when they requested the Government of India for help and that Government asked us to do something for them we plainly told them that we had no money. We replied that we could give only a token assistance in the recurring expenditure and so far as the non-recurring expenditure was concerned, the Government of India should help. It was suggested that the amount spent on colleges should have been spent on primary education. I reiterate that primary education

is the concern of the Municipal and District Boards who are reimbursed from 50 per cent. to 75 per cent. of the expenditure they incur in this connection. Primary schools are not opened by the Government itself and an exception will be found only in the case of Model School at Jullundur. So it must be clear to my hon. Friends that though the Government does not itself make arrangements for primary education, it does spend a good deal on it. It does not only spend on the Bhargava College.

Objection has been taken to the purchase of safes in that it could not be in the public interest. I wish to tell the critics that safes are at times a necessity as confidential papers have to be placed in them. The Supplementary Demand for Rs. 2,12,120 under the head 'education' includes an item of expenditure of Rs. 4,140 on account of the price of two iron safes. The Government has several important confidential papers and I do not think the expenditure of Rs. 4,140 on two safes for keeping those documents can be regarded as wasteful.

Objection has also been taken to the expenditure of Rs. 97,000 on furniture and equipment for colleges, included under the sub-head 'contingencies'. It has been complained that no such amount has been spent on schools. I beg to submit that we are discussing supplementary estimates and not the general budget. General education policy of the Government cannot be discussed at this stage. The Government has to incur expenditure where it is necessary. The colleges needed furniture urgently. They also required scientific apparatus and other equipment. As the number of students desiring to study science subjects was very large, additional expenditure had to be incurred to maintain a certain standard. Science classes were opened at Hoshiarpur and the college there had to be properly equipped. An additional building had also to be constructed for this purpose. If a wider aspect of the whole matter is taken, the expenditure of Rs. 97,000 on all these things will not be considered heavy. I hope that the hon. Members will take a broad view and approve of the expenditure under this Demand.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the item of Rs. 55,000, on account of grants to Non-Government Art Colleges—Grant-in-Aid to four disrupted colleges from West Punjab and to two newly started colleges in East Punjab—be reduced by Rs. 7,500.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,12,120 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950, in respect of "37—education".

The motion was carried.

MEDICAL

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,860 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950, in respect of "38—Medical".

The motion was carried.

STATIONERY AND PRINTING

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,12,580 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950, in respect of "56—Stationery and Printing".

The motion was carried.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 55,870 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending 31st March 1950, in respect of "57—Miscellaneous".

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p. m. on Monday, 17th October 1949.

East Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

17TH OCTOBER 1949

Vol. IV—No. 5

OFFICIAL REPORT

GOVT. PUNJAB

CONTENTS

Monday, 17th October 1949.

Printed at O. K. Printing Press, Simla 1950

Price Rs. 2-10-0

EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Fourth Session of the 1st East Punjab Legislative Assembly

Monday, 17th October 1949.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 P. M. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

PROCUREMENT OF MAIZE.

*1195. **Pandit Mohan Lal Datta** : Will the hon. Minister for Industries be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether he is aware of the fact that producers do not bring maize to the market for sale at the controlled price and they sell maize stealthily at black market rate of Rs. 12 per maund ;

(*b*) whether the Government has taken any steps to procure maize at controlled price and distribute it to the needy people in the deficit areas of the Province ;

(*c*) the quantity of maize procured by the Government in the year 1948-49 ;

(*d*) the steps Government intends to take to check maize from being sold in the black market ?

The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh :

(*a*) No.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) 5,184 tons.

(*d*) Restrictions have been imposed on the purchase, sale and movement of maize, with effect from the 15th September 1949, in and from the Districts of Ferozepore and Ludhiana, which are the main maize producing areas. All quantities of maize coming into the market in these districts will be distributed under Government supervision.

SALE PRICE OF WHEAT.

***1198. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon. Minister for Industries be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware of the fact that wheat is sold at Government Depots in Delhi and Pepsu territories at about Rs. 12 per maund ;

(*b*) whether it is also a fact that the East Punjab Government is selling wheat at about Rs. 17 or Rs. 18 per maund in this Province ;

(*c*) if the answers to parts (*a*) and (*b*) above be in the affirmative, the reasons for the same ?

The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh :

(*a*) The retail price for issues under rationing in Delhi is understood to be about Rs. 11 per maund for wheat and Rs. 12-3-0 for atta. The Pepsu Government has informed this Government that no retail issues of grain by that Government take place within its jurisdiction.

(*b*) The retail price of wheat issued by this Government varies,

(*i*) from district to district,

(*ii*) as between rationed towns and unrationed areas,

(*iii*) as between various periods of the year.

The minimum and maximum retail rates as from 1st October 1949, are :—

Rationed towns	Minimum		Maximum	
	Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p.	
Government issue price from its godowns.	15 2 0	(Ludhiana)	15 14 0	(Simla)
Retailers Margin	0 9 6		1 0 0	
Total :—	15 11 6		16 14 0	
Non-rationed areas				
Government issue rate from its godowns.	14 6 0	(Fazilka)	15 14 0	(Kangra)
Retail Margin	0 9 0		0 8 0*	
Total :—	14 15 0		16 6 0	

The above prices are for grain. Where atta is issued an additional charge to cover milling is added. This milling charge v[illegible]s from place to place, the minimum being Rs. 0-9-6 (Kartarpur) [illegible] the maximum Rs. 0-15-6 (Simla) per maund. For rural areas th[illegible] rate may be allowed upto a maximum of Re. 0-14-0 per maund.

*An extra margin has, however, to be allowed in particular places by Government on account of transport in hilly areas, distance and other factors. Transport in hill areas is expensive and increases the price considerably.

(*c*) With regard to Delhi, this is a wholly deficit area and gets supplies almost entirely from imports. The Delhi Government subsidises the imports and thereby reduces the price to the extent shown at (*a*). With regard to the East Punjab the price is fixed on a no profit no loss principle in respect of country grain. This price comprises—

		Rs.	a.	p.
Purchase cost of grain	..	13	11	0
Incidential charges averaged for the whole year including staff, godown rent, etc.	...	1	9	0
Total	..	15	4	0

The cost to Government is thus Rs. 15-4-0 per maund. This price is then varied as described at (*b*) above. To this price has to be added the millers margin for atta and the retailers margin for both wheat and atta ; and, where transport is over a long distance or difficult, extra charges for this.

In regard to the imported grain sold by Government as part of the ration this is sold at the same price as country grain and as imported grain is more expensive than country grain, the loss is borne by the Government, to the extent of 3/4th by the Central Government and 1/4th by the Provincial Government.

STEEL SCANDAL CASES.

*1216. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Industries be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of steel scandal cases investigated by the police ;

(*b*) the number of such cases registered by the police ;

The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh : The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to parts (*a*) and (*b*) of starred question No. 1235 put on 11th October 1949. †

OFFICE BEARERS OF DISTRICT CONGRESS COMMITTEES INVOLVED IN STEEL SCANDAL CASES.

*1217. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Industries be pleased to state the number together with the names of the Members of the East Punjab Legislative Assembly involved in steel scandal cases ?

The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh : The number of M. L. As. involved is four. It is not in public interest to disclose their names.

†Page (2) 17 Supra.

COAL PERMITS.

***1218. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Industries be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any complaint that the permits issued for the purchase and sale of coal have been misused in black market ;

(*b*) whether the Government has instituted any enquiry into these complaints ; if so, the results thereof, if not. why not ?

The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh :

(*a*) No complaints of general nature relating to the misuse of coal permits have been received by Government.

(*b*) Where specific complaint has been made enquiry has been instituted and necessary action taken

Shri Virendra : Is it a fact that unlike people involved in steel scandals, those involved in the coal permit cases were given one month's notice ?

Minister : No. Complaints were inquired into as and when they were received.

Shri Virendra : Did not the Government declare that if unused permits were returned to Government within a period of one month no action would be taken against the holders of such permits ?

Minister : There is no truth in this.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it not a fact that the hon Premier declared at Jullundur, in the month of June, that in case true facts were stated by the people concerned in respect of coal and houses within a period of one month, no action would be taken against them ?

Minister : This can be answered by the hon. Premier.

UTILISATION OF WATER FROM BARI DOAB CANAL.

***1169. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government has prepared any scheme to utilise the canal water of Bari Doab Canal at present flowing towards Pakistan. If so, the nature of the scheme and the time likely to be taken to put this scheme into operation ?

The hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Yes. A broad scheme has been prepared. The scheme envisages the utilisation of the supplies which would be made available when the supply going to West Punjab is cut off from the Upper Bari Doab Canal. The scheme can be put into operation only when such supplies as going to West Punjab are cut off. Exact time when it will be done, cannot be given as the matter is still under dispute between the Governments of India and Pakistan.

ALLOTMENT OF A BUILDING OR LAND TO THE VICTORIA DIAMOND JUBILEE HINDU TECHNICAL INSTITUTE OF LAHORE.

*1215. **Shri Virendra** : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether any building or land was allotted to the Victoria Diamond Jubilee Hindu Technical Institute of Lahore in Jullundur ;

(*b*) whether the possession of this building or land has been given to the Managing Body of the above-mentioned institute, if not, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) :

(*a*) Yes. Considering the important purpose for which the institute required accommodation, it was decided as a special case to allot the following evacuee properties at Jullundur to the institute :—

(*i*) Bombay Brass Works to serve as a workshop in which to impart practical training, and

(*ii*) Dewan Khana and some other buildings in Basti Baba Khel, a suburb of Jullundur, for use as office, class rooms, laboratory and hostel for staff and students.

(*b*) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The Bombay Brass Works had already been leased to a refugee for 3 years, but he was, in accordance with the conditions of the lease, given a six months' notice to vacate it and the Deputy Commissioner, Jullundur, was instructed to have the buildings in Basti Baba Khel vacated for the institute. On receipt of a representation from the occupants of these buildings against ejectment, it was decided that the Bombay Brass Works be allotted to the institute provided it agreed to pay the same rent as was being paid by the previous lessee and provided also it agreed to compensate the previous lessee for the improvements made by him in the buildings. These conditions were not acceptable to the institute, who preferred to be allotted land in Faridabad or Sonepat, free of charge or on a nominal rent and also asked for a large amount as grant from Government. These proposals are still under consideration, but owing to the refusal of the authorities of the institute to accept the conditions laid down for the allotment of the evacuee buildings at Jullundur, the proposals to make the Bombay Brass Works and the buildings in Basti Baba Khel, available to the institute did not materialize.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Should not the Government make a distinction between a commercial concern and an educational institution for purposes of fixation of rent of the building. The rent fixed for a commercial concern should not be applicable to an educational institution ?

Minister : The Government could not help as an agreement had been signed with the Bombay Brass Works.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Could not the agreement according to its terms be set aside after six months and the educational institution accommodated ?

Minister : The educational institution could not be accommodated as it was not prepared to pay for repairs or improvements effected in the building as also the expenditure involved in setting up machinary.

GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN.

***1220. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state the steps which the Government have taken to encourage Grow More Food Campaign in the Province and with what results ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) : The steps taken to encourage Grow More Food Compaign are briefly summarised as below :—

(1) *Organisation.*

A Province-wide Organisation has been set up on war l... Deputy Commissioners have been made as much responsible for Grow More Food Campaign as for law and order in their districts. There is a Cabinet Sub-Committee on 'Increased Food Production' which lays down policy. To carry out this policy, a Provincial Director of Food Production has been appointed. At district level District Food Production Committees have been established. There are also Tahsil Food Production Committees and Village Production Committees. As food question is out of the realm of party politics, persons of all shades of opinions are represented on these Food Production Committees.

(2) *Funds.*

Grow More Food Schemes totalling about Rs. 2½ crores are in operation. Briefly stated, they are :—

(*i*) Sinking of 10,000 percolation wells per year.

(*ii*) Sinking of 300 tubewells per year.

(*iii*) Reclamation of 50,000 acres of culturable waste each year.

(*iv*) Tractor cultivation.

(*v*) Intensification of compost and manure schemes.

(*vi*) Extension of canal irrigation.

(*vii*) Kuhl irrigation in Kangra district.

(*viii*) Repair of wells which have gone out of use.

(*ix*) Installation of water pumping engines on Nalas in some districts

(*x*) Drainage of surface water and reclamation of water-logged areas in some districts.

(*xi*) Destruction of monkeys.

(*xii*) Domestication of wild cows.

(*xiii*) Anti-erosion measures.

(*xiv*) Encouraging of cultivation of lands (by tenants) left unsown by landlords.

(*xv*) Growing of subsidiary foods.

(*xvi*) Growing of fish.

3. *Non-official co-operation and publicity.*

Steps have been taken and are in hand for publicising our Grow More Food Schemes, our great national leaders' appeals and the assistance that Government is giving to cultivators in this respect.

3. The results so far achieved are encouraging. There is a great awakening and enthusiasm among the public. Tractor cultivation is very much in demand. There is a huge demand for sinking of percolation wells and tubewells. It is hoped that the production of manure and compost will increase many times the present production.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it not a fact that due to unfavourable economic conditions, the Government of India has expressed its inability to pay the promised amount of two and a half crores of rupees to the East Punjab Government ?

Minister : There has been some reduction and the whole matter is under consideration.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Has there been a partial reduction in the original amount or has it been cancelled in entirety ? Has our Government decided to drop its scheme in view of the present situation ?

Minister : The amount sanctioned by the Government is being distributed among various departments and we are sure to get our share.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : What reduction has been actually effected ? Is it ten per cent or twelve and a half per cent ?

Minister : As this matter has not been discussed in a cabinet meeting so far, it cannot be said with certainty what amount will be given, but something is sure to be allotted.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : While the Government is doing so much for the zamindars and farmers, is it aware that if the wheal or ropes of a well are broken it is very difficult to replace them because these are not available in the open market and can be had only in the black-market ?

Minister : The Government is making suitable arrangements in this connection and iron is being distributed among the villagers for their use.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : That is right but the Government should arrange.........

Mr. Speaker: That is a suggestion.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know the date on which hon. Minister based his reply when he said that the results have been satisfactory?

Minister: Reports received from the Deputy Commissioners show that the results have been satisfactory.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Has there been some increase in the production of food? If so, which food-grain has been produced in larger quantity?

Minister: Efforts are being made to bring more land under cultivation and considerable success has been achieved in that respect. Actual results will be known on the harvesting of crops.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is it not a fact that tractor cultivation is very costly and the results obtained with its use have not been encouraging?

Minister: I cannot say at present whether it has proved costly or otherwise. The actual position will be known after the harvest.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal: How much money has the Government actually received so far from the Government of India?

Minister: Nothing definite can be said about it but the Government of India promised to give two crores of rupees. This amount has now been reduced.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal: How much has the Government spent?

Minister: I have not got the actual figures with me at present but shall be able to supply these, if due notice is given.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal: Has the Government prepared a separate budget for the 'Grow More Food' campaign?

Minister: The Government of India promised to give two crores of rupees and the budget was prepared occordingly. As that amount has now been reduced, it cannot be said as to what items of programme will have to be dropped.

OVER CROWDING OF PRISONERS IN VARIOUS JAILS.

* **1171. Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the total number of the prisoners confined in each jail in the Province on the first and the 15th of every month between the period 1st April 1949 to 1st August 1949.

(*b*) authorised accomodation in each jail on the aforesaid dates ;

(*c*) the number of authorised beds in each of the jail hospitals on the dates mentioned above ;

(*d*) the number of the indoor patients in each of the jail hospitals on the dates mentioned above ;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that there was over-crowding in the jail hospitals, on the dates mentioned above ; if so, the steps, if any were taken by the Government in the matter ;

(*f*) whether any of the indoor patients was released on parole during this period ;

(g) whether it is a fact that there is still over-crowding in the jails ; if so, what steps the Government proposes to take to re'ieve this over-crowding ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bachan Singh) : I regret that the information asked for by the hon. Member in parts (a) to (f) is not ready, as the time and labour likely to be spent for its collection will be incommensurate with the object to be attained. The over-crowding in the jails of this Province and consequently in the jail hospitals therein, is an admitted fact and to reduce this Government have already under taken three schemes to provide additional accommodation for prisoners. Two of these schemes relate to the extension of the present buildings of the Central Jails at Ambala and Ferozepore, while the third relates to the conversion of the present Camp Jail at Hissar into a Pucca District Jail. Work on all these schemes is in progress.

POLICE LOCK-UPS.

*** 1172. Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the authorised accommodation in each of the police lock-ups in different police stations of Amritsar and Ferozepore Districts respectively ;

(*b*) the number of the prisoners confined in each of these lock-ups on the 1st, 10th and 20th day of every month during the period 1st April 1949 to 31st August 1949 ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that there was over-crowding in these lock-ups during the period referred to above ; if so, to what extent ;

(*d*) what steps the Government did take to relieve this over-crowding ;

(*e*) what steps does the Government propose to take to relieve over-crowding in these lock-ups in future ;

(f) what steps, if any, have been taken by the Government to improve the sanitary conditions of the police lock-ups particularly regarding the removal of earthen pitchers supplied in the lock-ups to answer the call of nature and pass urine ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bachan Singh) ;

(*a*) and (*b*) Statements giving the required information are laid on the table. †

(*c*) Yes, a statement is laid on the table. †

(*d*) Under trials were speedily sent to Headquarters Judicial Lock-ups.

(*e*) Instructions have been issued to Superintendents of police to get plans and estimates prepared for the constructions of additional lock-ups wherever considered necessary.

(*f*) All steps considered necessary from sanitation point of view are taken. For instance, pots and pans supplied inside the lock-ups are kept clean and sweepers and water carries look to this satisfactorily. The removal of earthen pitchers is not possible as no other feasible arrangements can be made at present.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : In the statement given by the Government, it will be noticed that persons numbering twice or two and a half times the ordinary accommodation of Patti Police lock-up, are kept in it. What steps has the Government taken to remedy this situation which exists there throughout the year ?

Parliamentary Secretary : There was increase of crim[illegible] the East Punjab as a whole and it naturally resulted in more pers[illegible] having to be accommodated in Police lock-ups than they were ordinarily meant for.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : There being a Resident Magistrate at Patti, its position is somewhat different. May I know what steps the Government has taken to provide a Judicial lock-up there, as promised during the last Budget Session ?

Parliamentary Secretary : If the hon. Member gives complete information, the Government will give due consideration to the matter.

ARRESTS IN CONNECTION WITH STEEL AND IRON SCANDAL

***1174. Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Industries be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the names of the M. L. A's who have so far been arrested in connection with the steel and iron scandal cases ;

(*b*) the number of such M. L. A's whose cases have been sent up for trial in the Courts of Law ;

(*c*) the nature of offence in each case ?

The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh : (*a*) It is not in public interest to disclose the names of persons arrested, on the floor of the House.

(*b*) One.

†Kept in the Library.

(c) It is not advisable to disclose the nature of offence as the cases are subjudice ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : When the hon. Premier gave out the names of Members of the Assembly in the course of his statement to-day, why is the hon. Minister unable to state them in reply to my question ?

Minister : If you know the names already, where is the necessity of this question ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : I wish to know the reason of the hon. Minister not giving out the names, when the hon. Premier had no objection in doing so ?

Ministir : Where is the necessity of asking this question, if the hon. Member already knows the names ?

Sardar Sajjan Slngh : A few days back, in reply to one of my supplementary questions, the Government stated that they regarded black-marketers to be worse and more dangerous than ordinary criminals. Why do they refuse to disclose their names ?

Minister : The hon. Member should not insist on knowing the names in the House.

ARRESTS IN CONNECTION WITH STEEL AND IRON SCANDAL

***1175. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Industries be pleased to state :—

(a) the names of the Government servants who have been so far arrested in connection with the steel and iron scandal cases ;

(b) the post each one of these Government servants was holding and the salary including allowances he was being paid per month at the time of his arrest ;

(c) whether they have been suspended ; if so, since when ;

The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh : (a) The number of such Government servants is two. It is not in public interest to disclose the names on the floor of the House.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) One of them has been suspended and the other discharged.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it not a fact that a Government servant who is under suspension was not supplied any charge-sheet for two or three months ?

Minister : I require notice for this question.

CENSORING OF LETTERS OF M. L. As. BY THE POLICE

*1199. **Pandit Mohan Lal Datta** : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that letters of some Members of the East Punjab Assembly are being censored by the police ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that a letter addressed by me to Sardar Sajjan Singh Mirgindpuri, M. L. A. recently was intercepted by the Police and its copy sent to the Government ;

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bachan Singh) : (*a*) No.

(*b*) No.

SERVING OF WINE IN PARTIES BY MINISTERS

*1239. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Premier be ple[illegible] to state :—

(*a*) whether Government have issued instructions prohibiting the serving of alcoholic drinks at official and semi-official parties in the Province ;

(*b*) whether it has come to the notice of Government that these orders have not been observed at certain parties ;

(*c*) if so, what action is proposed to be taken in the matter ;

Parliamentry Secretary (Sardar Bachan Singh) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

GARDEN HOUSE BELONGING TO S. BHAG SINGH AT JULLUNDUR.

*1272. **Shri Virendra** : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a bungalow known as 'Garden House' situated on the Grand Trunk Road, Jullundur, opposite Saddar Police Station, purchased by S. Bhag Singh, Contractor of Hoshiarpur has been requisitioned by the East Punjab Government ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that two third of the said house has been requisitioned for the office and residence of Executive Engineer, Development, Jullundur and the remaining one third with guest house and outhouses for a private firm known as 'The Reliable Water Supply Co ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that S. Bhag Singh has no other house for his own residence in Jullundur ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that S. Bhag Singh applied for its derequisition and that the District Magistrate strongly recommended his application ;

(*e*) if the answers to parts (*a*), (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) above be in the affirmative, the reasons why this has not yet been derequisitioned and why a part of it has been requisitioned for a private firm ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bachan Singh) :

(*a*) to (*c*) Yes ; but it may be mentioned that S. Bhag Singh's place of business is at Burnpur (West Bengal).

(*d*) S. Bhag Singh applied for derequisitioning a portion of the house, but I regret it is not in the public interest to disclose the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner.

(*e*) The building is partly occupied by a Government office and partly by the Reliable Water Supply Service of India, Limited, who are engaged on Government work. Even before requisition, the portion occupied by the Company was on lease with them. The provision of accommodation for the Company is in the interest of Government work and the portion occupied by them can be de-requisitioned only if some other suitable accommodation becomes available for their use,

LANGUAGE QUESTION.

*1200. **Pandit Mohan Lal Datta** : Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the question of language for East Punjab has been settled by the Government finally, if so, the main outlines of such settlement ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Bachan Singh) : Yes. A copy of the statement containing the outlines is laid on the table.†

RATE OF FEES IN CIVIL HOSPITALS.

*1201. **Pandit Mohan Lal Datta** : Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether the Government has prescribed any fee to be charged by Government doctors in Civil Hospitals from patients for operations in the Hospitals ;

(*b*) the rules of the Government prescribing the grade of fees to be charged from patients admitted into a Government Civil Hospital for an operation ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that Bawa Shadi Lal, Advocate, Hoshiarpur was charged Rs. 65 by the present Assistant Surgeon, Civil Hospital, Hoshiarpur for a minor operation of his arm fracture, if so, the reasons therefor ;

(*d*) whether the Government contemplates modifying the rules for charging fees in the Civil Hospitals ; if so, when ?

†Kept in the Library.

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The rules regarding levy of fees from patients treated in private wards of Government hospitals are laid down in Appendix LIII of the Punjab Medical Manual and the annexures thereto, according to which no charges are levied from patients treated in the General Wards with an income below Rs. 150 p. m., who are not ordinarily admitted to the private wards. In case a person with an income of less than Rs. 150 p. m. is admitted in a private ward, he is required to pay the hospital stoppage charges at half the prescribed rates, Hospital stoppage charges are recovered in full from all persons whose income is Rs. 150 p. m. or above.

The scales of fees prescribed for operation is laid down in Anrexure I of the Appendix LIII referred to above. Operation fees are not charged from the patient whose income is below Rs. 150 p. m. half the prescribed rates are levied from persons whose income is over Rs. 150 p. m., but below Rs. 500 p. m., and full rates from those whose income is between Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 p. m. For persons whose income is above Rs. 1,000 p. m. fees e fixed by private arrangement between the doctor and the patient

Seperate scales are laid down for visits by physicians and surgeons, confinements, X-Ray treatment, Laboratory examinations, etc., in the Appendix mentioned above.

(*c*) Yes. The Assistant Surgeon was Civil Surgeon at that time. The income of Bawa Shadi Lal Advocate is said to be about Rs. 1,000 p. m. being a leading lawyer.

(*d*) No.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state as to what portion of the fee charged from Bawa Shadi Lal will go to the Government and what will remain with the doctor himself ?

Minister : The hon. Member should refer to the rules for this matter. I have no knowledge about that.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : What is the portion of fees fixed for the Government and what is the doctor's, according to the rules ?

Minister : I will refer the hon. Member to rules.

ADULTERATION OF GHEE.

*1204. **Pandit Mohan Lal Datta** : Will the hon. Minister for Finace be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware of the fact that a great deal of adulteration is being made in the venaspati ghee at present in the Province ;

(*b*) what action, if any, has the Gevernment taken or intend to take to prevent adulteration of pure ghee or the adulteration of venaspati ghee with other injurious stuffs ;

(*c*) the steps, if any taken so far by the Government to increase the supply of pure ghee in the Province ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Food Inspectors in the Province have been given instructions to launch a vigorous campaign against the offenders of the provisions of the Punjab Pure Food Act. All Deputy Commissioners in the Province have been instructed by Government, that in order to have a deterrent effect, it is necessary that cases under the Act are disposed of expeditiously and sentences imposed must be adequate. They have further been asked to instruct the prosecuting staff to press for adequate sentences in all convictions under the Act.

In view of the importance of the eradication of the evil practice of adulteration, the sentences to be awarded to the offenders under the Act have recently been enhanced considerably such as :—

(*i*) "in the case of 1st offence with a fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or with simple or rigorous imprisonment upto 6 months or with both ; and

(*ii*) in the second or subsequent offence with a fine which may extend to Rs. 2 000 or with simple or rigorous imprisonment upto one year or with both".

The Government of India, under the Vegetable Products Control Order has made it obligatory on all manufacturers of venaspati to incorporate sesame oil upto 10% in venaspati ghee. Sesame oil when incorporated in venaspati acts as a latent colourser and with its addition, the adulteration can be detected by a simple chemical test.

(*c*) The following measures have been taken to increase the supply of pure milk and milk products including pure ghee in the Province :—

(*i*) the technical dairy staff consisting of one dairy development officer P. V. S. (1) Assistant dairy development officers P. V. S.

(*ii*) one for each revenue division and 13 Dairy Assistants, one for each district has been sanctioned for the development of dairy industry of the Province. This staff, except Assistant Dairy Development Officer, Ambala Division, is working since November, 1948 and renders free technical advisory service to private dairy enterprisers and Gaushalas in the Province to promote dairying in the Province on hygienic and modern lines.

(*ii*) Under the Cattle, Sheep and Goats (Movement) Control Ordinance No. XX of 1949, the export of cattle including milch cows and buffaloes to other Provinces and States

[Minister for Finance]

has been restricted. Before the promulgation of this Ordinance cows and buffaloes of high milk yield were exported to other Provinces and States in large numbers with the result that the price of milk and ghee was increasing rapidly. Since the imposition of the ban the price of milk and pure ghee has shown a marked decrease in the Province.

(*iii*) in January 1948 a harrab buffaloe farm was opened at Hissar as a part of the Government livestock farm, Hissar with the main object of producing pure milk and to produce pedigree buffaloe bulls of improved milk strain to approved breeders for increasing the number of she buffaloes with high milk yield. About 30 maunds of milk are daily being sold from the Government livestock farm, Hissar. The dairy herd at the farm has recently been supplemented by milk cows of the famous sehawal breed. Here we succeed in increasing the milk, the more pure ghee will come into the marked.

(*iv*) Government have decided to grant loans under the Punjab State Aid to Industries Act, 1935, to suitable private dairy enterprisers who may wish to take to dairying as their vocation. Applications in this behalf have been invited through the press and laons will be granted to those who fulfill the requisite conditions.

(*v*) some other dairy development schemes *viz.*

(*a*) setting up of a dairy development board and the creation of a dairy development fund ;

(*b*) starting of two Model Dairy Farms ;

(*c*) starting of 200 Dairy Colonies ;

(*d*) starting of Cattle Artificial Inserunation Centres ;

(*e*) starting of a dry stock farm and Cattle Segregation Camp for old uneconomic cattle in each district ; and the

(*f*) supply of oil cakes at subsidised rates to professi producers of milk ;

are under consideration of Government.

TRAVELLING AND HALTING ALLOWANCES.

* **1173. Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for public works be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the travelling and halting allowances drawn by the Chief Engineer, Buildings and Roads Branch for the period 15th March 1947 to 31st March 1948 ; 1st April 1948 to 31st August 1949 ; and 1st April 1949 to 31st August 1949 ;

(*b*) the travelling and halting allowances drawn by each of the Superintending Engineers, Buildings and Roads Branch for the period referred to above ;

(*c*) the travelling and halting allowances drawn by each of the Divisional Executive Engineers, Buildings and Roads Branch for the period, referred to in part (*a*) above.

(*d*) the monthly salaries drawn by each of the above referred to officers including allowances other than travelling and halting allowances ?

The hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :

(*a*) The required information is given in the enclosed statement 'A' †

(*b*) and (*c*) The required information is given in the enclosed statement 'B' †

(*d*) The required information is given in the enclosed statement 'C' †

Sardar Sajjan Singh : The statement supplied by the hon. Minister shows that the Chief Engineer Central was paid about Rs. 10,809 as travelling allowance in two years. One of the Superintending Engineers has been paid Rs. 13,559 as travelling allowance. The Superintending Engineer of the Jullundur Circle got about Rs. 11,200. Another Executive Engineer was paid Rs. 8.000. In this way, the total of all these travelling allowances comes to about two lakh rupees. Is it not a fact that the Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Branch, are entitled to only Rs. 250 or Rs. 225 only as their monthly travelling allowance ?

Minister : I want notice for this question.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know if there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to reduce such heavy expenditure on travelling allowances ?

Minister : Yes. The travelling allowances have now been fixed.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the rate at which these travelling allowances have been fixed ?

Minister : I want notice for this question.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it a fact that the Retrenchment Committee also sent a proposal to the Government for effecting reduction in the travelling allowances of the Government Officers ?

Minister : It is not in my knowledge.

---

† Kept in the Library.

COMPENSATION TO LABOURERS.

*1202. **Pandit Mohan Lal Datta** : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of labourers working in the Nangal and Bhakra areas under the Government who received injuries in the course of their daily usual work during the past two years, *i. e.*, from 1948 upto September 1949 :

(*b*) whether the Government has paid any compensation to such labourers under the Workmen's Compensation Act. If so, the names of such persons ?

The hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :

(*a*) 57 (56 contractors labourers and one Government employee) ;

(*b*) No

One case of compensation to Government employee payable by Government is under consideration.

Compensation was paid to the following by the contractors.

1. Parkash Chand.
2. Lal Bahadur.
3. Maluk Chand.
4. Kali Das.

Nine more cases of compensation to contractors labourers are under consideration by Superintending Engineers, Nangal and Bhakra Mechanical Circles.

TOURS BY EXECUTIVE ENGINEERS OF NANGAL AND BHAKRA PROJECTS.

*1203. **Pandit Mohan Lal Datta** : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that four Executive Engineers apart from other duties in Nangal Area have to go to Bhakra Area to supervise the Project Work in that area ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that they are provided with motor transport and petrol by the Government ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that these Executive Engineers are getting daily allowance also for their visit to Bhakra area which is about 2 to 9 miles from Nangal ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the said Executive Engineers return to Nangal after a few hours work in Bhakra area ?

The hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :

(*a*) Yes ;

(*b*) Yes ;

(*c*) Yes, but only when outside five miles radius according to rules ;

(*d*) Yes.

SUPPLY OF BRICK KILNS.

***1176. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Industries be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the places in the Tahsils of Tarn Taran and Ajnala, respectively, where pakka bricks kilns were allowed to be established during the years 1947 and 1948 ;

(*b*) the names of the owners of each brick kilns ;

(*c*) the quantity of coal allowed and given to each of the kilns mentioned above during the years 1947 and 1948, respectively ;

(*d*) whether the Government controlled the price of the bricks prepared in the aforesaid period, if so, the price fixed per thousand bricks of different kinds ;

(*e*) whether any new kilns have been allowed to be established during the year 1949, if so, where and the names of the owners of these kilns ;

(*f*) whether Government has entered into any contracts with the owners of these kilns regarding the supply of bricks, if so, the terms of the contracts entered into ?

The hon. Sardar Ujjal Singh :

(*a*) No permission is required to start a new kiln. However, no new kiln was started in the Tahsils of Tarn Taran and Ajnala during the years 1947 and 1948.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) No permission is necessary to start a new brick kiln.

(*f*) Does not arise.

EJECTMENT OF TENANTS.

***1271. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government has received complaints from tenants in Ferozepore and Hissar Districts that they are being ejected from their lands by the landlords ;

(*b*) whether Government intends to stop ejectments of these tenants ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

Shri Virendra : May I know if there are any diffe ences among the Members of the Cabinet over this question of tenants ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is not in my knowledge.

Shri Virendra : Is it a fact that one hon. Minister in a speech at Ferozepore, admitted the existence of differences in the Cabinet over this matter ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I require notice for this question.

CULTIVABLE AREA.

*1221. **Shri Virendra** : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the total cultivable area of land in the Province ;

(*b*) the total area under cultivation ;

(*c*) the steps taken by the Government to bring entire cu' i able area of land under cultivation ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

(*a*) The total cultivable area in the East Punjab for 1947-48 is 1,61,16,726 acres. (Culturable waste 24,24,018 acres current fallows 17,82,714 acres and net sown 1,19,09,994 acres).

(*b*) The total area under cultivation in the East Punjab, *viz*., the net area sown for the year 1947-48 is 1,19,09,991 acres.

(*c*) The steps taken by Government to bring the entire cultivable area of land under cultivation briefly are :—

1. Extension of canal irrigation.
2. Repair of wells which have gone out of use.
3. Construction of new percolation wells.
4. Construction of tubewells.
5. Installation of water pumping engines on Nalas in some districts.
6. Drainage of surface water and reclamation of water logged areas in some districts.
7. Anti-erosion measures.
8. Tractor cultivation.
9. Kuhl irrigation in Kangra District.
10. Setting up Grow More Food Organisations on war level in the whole Province, *i. e*., from the Cabinet level down to the village level.

11. Encouraging cultivation of cultivated lands (by tenants) left unsown by landlords.
12. Growing of subsidiary foods.
13. Destruction of monkeys.
14. Domestication of wild cows.
15. Intensification of compost and manure schemes.

HOUSES BURNT DOWN IN HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT BY FIRE.

*1230. **Pandit Mohan Lal Datta** : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a very large number of houses in some villages in Una Tahsil, District Hoshiarpur, were burnt down by accidental fire during the last 6 months resulting in the loss of some lacs of rupees to the owners of such houses ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the owners of such houses have applied to Government for monetary help to roof their houses and buy necessaries of life ;

(*c*) whether the Government has considered over the representations of these people for monetary aid, if so, the relief the Government intend to give to these people ;

(*d*) whether Government is aware that the owners of the burnt houses include a sufficient number of Harijans ?

The hon. Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes, some of the owners.

(*c*) *First Part.*—Yes.

Second Part.—Taccavi is being granted to some and gratuitous relief to others is under consideration. Besides, District Board and Red-Cross Society have been approached to contribute liberally for the sufferers.

(*d*) Yes.

RULES REGULATING RECRUITMENT TO POSTS CARRYING A SALARY OF RS. 100 OR LESS.

*1232. **Pandit Mohan Lal Datta** : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the rules regulating the recruitment to posts carrying a salary of Rs. 100 or less than Rs. 100 per mensem in different Departments of the Government ;

(*b*) the manner in which the recruitments to such posts have been made in the Co-operative, Panchayat, Agriculture and Public Works Departments during the year 1948-49, respectively ;

[Pandit Mohan Lal Datta]

(*c*) whether the Government has considered the proposal to recruit persons to such posts after competitive examinations ?

The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar :

(*a*) Recruitment to various services and posts in different Departments of Government is made in the following manner :—

(*i*) by direct recruitment on merit through a test ;

(*ii*) by transfer from subordinate or other Government Offices ;

(*iii*) by promotion on the basis of seniority from the lower grade to the higher grade ;

(*iv*) by selection on merit after advertisement. These methods of recruitment are based on specific rules concerning each department or service.

(*b*) The recruitment in these departments in the year 1948-49 was made in accordance with the Subordinate Service Rules relating to each department in the manner referred to above, subject to Government orders regarding absorption of ex-servicemen and displaced Government servants from West Punjab.

(*c*) Government have decided that in future all posts carrying a salary of Rs. 50 or above should be filled up on the recommendations of the Public Service Commission.

DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

***1177. Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the names of the District Inspectors of Schools together with the district in which each one of them is posted at present ;

(*b*) the date of his posting in the district to which he is at present posted ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that there are any Inspectors of Schools who are being allowed to stay in the districts in which they are posted for a period exceeding 3 years ; if so, the reason for the same ;

(*d*) the travelling allowance drawn by each one of them for the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, 1st April 1948 to 31st March 1949 and 1st April 1949 to 31st August 1949 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(*a*), (*b*) and (*d*) A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the table. †

(*c*) Such officials are usually transferred after an interval of five years. There is no case at present requiring immediate attention.

---

†Kept in the Library.

CONCESSION TO THE CHILDREN OF MILITARY MEN.

*1206. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether any facilities like the remission of school and college fees and the grant of scholarships have been afforded to the Children of the combatants of the Great World War II ; if so, the nature of these facilities ;

(*b*) the total amount so spent by the Government from 1st April 1948 to 31st March 1949 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(*a*) and (*b*) The reply is laid on the table. †

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is the Government prepared to provide these facilities to those political sufferers also who made sacrifices for the sake of the country in 1942 ?

EXECUTIVE ENGINEERS AND SUPERINTENDING ENGINEERS.

*1178. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for public works be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the names of each of the Executive Engineers and Superintending Engineers in the different irrigation circles, in East Punjab namely Upper Bari Doab, Sirhind Canal and Jumna Canal ;

(*b*) the date of their posting in the canal circle in which each of them is working at present ;

(*c*) whether any one of them has remained posted to one place for more than 3 years ; if so ; the reasons therefor ;

(*d*) the travelling and halting allowances drawn by each one of them for the period 1st April 1948 to 31st March 1949 and 1st April 1949 to 31st August 1949 respectively ;

(*e*) the monthly salaries including allowances each one of them had drawn in April, 1948 and August, 1949 ;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that they are occupying Government owned or requisitioned bungalows, if so, the amount of rent that is being charged from each one of them ?

The hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh :

(*a*), (*b*), (*d*), (*e*) and (*f*) As per statement placed on the table.†

(*c*) No.

---

†Kept in the Library.

SUSPENSION OF REVENUE PATWARIS IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

***1179. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether some Revenue Patwaris were suspended in Amritsar district in the month of August 1948.

(*b*) their names, the date of suspension and the grounds of suspension in each case ;

(*c*) whether any charge sheet was given to each one of them, if so, the date on which charge sheet was handed over to each one of them ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that one of the above referred to patwaris was suspended on 9th August 1948 but he has neither been paid the salary of his working days in the month of August 1948 uptil 3rd September 1949 nor he has been paid the salary and the other allowances to which he was entitled under the rules after suspension ; if so, the reasons for the same.

(*e*) what action, if any, does the Government propose to in the matter ?

The hon. Sardar Joginder Singh Mann :

(*a*), (*b*) Yes. One namely Shri Rangi Ram was suspended on 9th August 1948 on account of an objectionable speech made by him in a meeting held at Taran Taran in connection with the Anti-corruption Campaign.

(*c*) Yes, on 28th October 1948 through the Tahsildar Taran Taran.

(*d*) 1st part.—Yes.

Second Part.—He was paid his dues for the month of August, 1948, but not after that as he participated in objectionable activities during the patwaris strike.

(*e*) None.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it not a fact that one of the Patwaris has not been paid half the salary and other allowances which were paid to others ?

Parliamentary Secretary : This would require a fresh notice as it was not asked for previously.

REVENUE PATWARIS

***1180. Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the names of the districts of East Punjab in which Revenue Patwaris struck work in 1948 ; if so, the action taken by the Government in each district against the strikers.

(*b*) the number of the Patwaris in each of the districts who were suspended, dismissed, prosecuted and convicted under the provisions of the Essential Services Act together with the sentence awarded in each case.

(*c*) the number of the Revenue Patwaris against whom prosecutions were withdrawn in each district ;

(*d*) the number of such cases pending in each of the districts against the Patwaris on 3rd September 1949.

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioners of Jullunder, Gurdaspur, Ludhiana and some other districts reinstated the suspended, and dismissed Patwaris and even those against whom cases were withdrawn.

(*f*) whether it is a fact that none of such Patwaris has so far been reinstated in Amritsar District, if so, the reasons for this discrimination ;

(*g*) whether it is a fact that some instructions in connection with the action to be taken against the Patwaris were issued by the Government in March 1949 ; if so, the nature of the instructions so issued.

(*h*) whether after issuing of the instructions referred to above, the Government enquired whether these instructions were being acted upon ; if so, with what result ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) :

(*a*) *First part.*—Amritsar. Hoshiarpur, Ambala, Ludhiana, Kangra, Gurdaspur, Ferozepur and Jullundur.

Second part.—In each district the strikers were placed under suspension for the period they remained on strike. They were not allowed any salary for this period. Adverse entries were made in their amalnamas. In some districts the strikers were dealt with both criminally and departmentally.

(*b*) A statement is Laid on the table †

†Kept in the Library.

[Parliamentary Secretary]

(*c*)	Amritsar	Nil.	Kangra	Nil.
	Hoshiarpur	Nil.	Jullundur	Nil.
	Ambala	Nil.	Gurdaspur	27
	Ludhiana	17	Ferozepur	27
(*d*)	Amritsar	4	Kangra	Nil.
	Hoshiarpur	Nil.	Jullundur	Nil.
	Ambala	1	Gurdaspur	Nil.
	Ludhiana	Nil.	Ferozepur	Nil.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) *First part.*—Yes.

Second part.—They were dismissed as a result of facts found proved by a Criminal Court. However, action is being taken by the Deputy Commissioner to reinstate them under Government instructions.

(*g*) *First part.*—Yes.

Second part.—The instructions were in respect of withdrawal of departmental proceedings against Patwaris who went on strike and remission of sentences awarded under criminal prosecutions.

(*h*) *First part.*—Yes.

Second part.—Action is being taken by the Deputy Commissioners concerned in this respect.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it not a fact that similar treatment has not been meted out to the Patwaris in all the districts ?

Parliamentary Secretary : All the Patwaris are considered equal in the eyes of law.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : The hon. Parliamentary Secretary has just stated in his main reply that except for Kangra District in no other district has any Patwari been prosecuted. I know of cases in Amritsar district where punishment has been given.

Parliamentary Secretary : The Patwaris of Amritsar took an active part in the agitation against the Government. The Patwaris of other districts may not have played such a leading part. All cases have been considered on their respective merits.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : What is the policy of the Government with regard to various patwaris in various districts ? Do they propose to accord a similar treatment to the Patwaris of Amritsar District as is accorded to the Patwaris of other districts ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Every case has been decided on its merits.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : All of the Patwaris went on strike together. So why is there any discrimination ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Patwaris of Amritsar were ring leaders. Others were followers. So naturally there is some difference in treatment.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : When the Patwaris of Amritsar returned to duty and expressed regret they ought to have been treated leniently.

Parliamentary Secretary : Government has always been disposed to consider their cases sympathetically.

Pandit Faqir Chand : Is it in the knowledge of the hon. Parliamentary Secretary that some Patwaris made a representation to the Government ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is not in my knowledge.

EXEMPTION OF GALLANTRY AWARDS FROM THE APPLICATION OF GRADED CUT

***1205. Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Military men, who were given lands as Grants in lieu of the Gallantry and other War Services, have been exempted from the graded cut system in the quasi permanent allotment of land, if so, the reasons therefor ;

(*b*) the total area to be exempted in each district of the Province of East Punjab according to the above referred decision.

(*c*) whether any M. L. As, Parliamentary Secretaries, Ministers or their desendents have benefitted by this concession, if so, the names together with the area each one of them is to be allotted ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) : (*a*) The Gallantry awards won during World War 2nd have been exempted from the application of graded cut, in recognition of their services to the country in a period of crisis. All other military or war service grants are subject to the graded cut.

[Parliamentary Secretary]

		Acres.
(*b*) 1.	Lyallpur	1231-3-5
2.	Montgomery	874-5-4
3.	Multan	227-5-2
4.	Shahpur	27-4-0
5.	Lahore	50-3-12

This information is available only in respect of districts in West Punjab. Information in regard to districts of East Punjab can only be given when the quasi permanent allotment is over.

(*c*) Not within the knowledge of Government.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether in the matter of grant of exemption to a particular section of Military men from the graded cut, Government contemplates to consider the cases of those political workers also who made immense sacrifices and suffered a lot for the cause of freedom movement ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I may tell the hon. Member that under this concession only 1 per cent military people have been benefitted. That is, only those military personnel who received gallantry awards in the II World War. The remaining 99·9 military people have been treated at par with the other grantees. So far as these political workers are concerned, who suffered imprisonment in the cause of freedom movement, Government did discuss their case, but their number is so large that despite its best intentions to help them, it could not arrive at any definite conclusion.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether Government would draw any line of distinction in this matter between the political workers, just as they have done in the case of military men ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I may inform the hon. Member that such matters are not decided on political considerations.

ALLOTMENT ORDERS UNDER QUASI-PERMANENT SCHEME.

***1231. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta** : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue, be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a very large number of persons are dissatisfied with the allotment orders under the Quasi-permanent Scheme :

(*b*) whether the Government has set up any Committee of non-officials to look into the complaints of refugees affected by these orders ;

(*c*) the changes and var ations in the original scheme of allocation made under the Quasi-permanent Scheme and the reasons for such a change ?

Parlimentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) :

(*a*) No All legitimate complaints received from the public are sympathetically considered, and redressed promptly.

(*b*) Yes. A non-official advisory committee has been functioning from day to-day for about a month.

(*c*) The scheme of allocation of areas which the honourable Member refers as the original scheme was in fact only a draft scheme based on tentative, estimated figures of area required for allotment for difierent districts of West Punjab. After the claims of individuals for different districts were consolidated and the area of each person verified from records, a scheme of allocation was prepared. A summary of this scheme is placed on the table of the House. † As work proceeds, certain adjustments will be called for even in this scheme.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it a fact that Government had made an announcement that the work of allotment would be carried out strictly on impersonal basis and that allotment chits would be sent direct to the homes of the allotees ? Is it also a fact that many of the allotment chits were got changed by the allotees who visited personally the Jullundur Secretariat ?

Parliamentary Secretary: Government did make such an announcement and it is being acted upon in letter and in spirit. Those allotees who received wrong chits or who had somehow or other been unfairly treated, did visit the Jullundur Secretariat and there was no harm in getting their chits rectified on this ground. The object of that announcement was to discourage those people who wanted favours.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it a fact that five thousand Zamindars daily visit Jullundur Secretariat to get their chits on personal basis and thus undermine the whole allotment scheme ?

Parliamentary Secretary: I may tell my hon. Friend that there are at least five lakhs of allotees and out of them if five thousand persons go to the Jullundur Secretariat to get their grievances redressed, I see no harm in it. But I categorically refute the insinuation made by my hon. Friend that these allotees go there with a view to getting certain alterations made in their chits. Government have not altered any chit nor have they any intention to do so in any case on personal basis.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it in the knowledge of the Government that during the allotment of lands corruption has been the order of the day and this type of corruption even surpassed all the methods adopted by the corrupt police and civil supplies officials ? May I also know whether Government have taken any steps to put a stop to this ?

Mr. Speaker : Is it not an expression of opinion ?

† Kept in the Library.

Parliamentary Secretary: The statement made by the hon. Member is entirely wrong. But if he is in the know of any such case, he should bring it to the notice of the Government. An enquiry will be instituted in that case. I may also inform him that only three or four days ago the Director General Rehabilitation told me that reports of corruption had been received against two Rehabilitation Tehsildars and an enquiry had been ordered If the charges are found to be correct, exemplary punishment will be awarded to them.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta: Is it a fact that one or two M. L. As. connected with the Rehabilitation work had been indulging in malpractices?

Parliamentary Secretary: The hon. Member's statement is entirely unfounded. It is possible that he himself might have gone to the Jullundur Secretariat for some such purpose but failed to achieve his object.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Parliamentary Secretary should avoid such remarks. He being a Member of the Government, is supposed to be more responsible in his remarks.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta: Is it a fact that the allotment of lands was in reality an allotment of constituencies?

Mr. Speaker: Disallowed.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: May I know whether Government have received any complaints or representations from widows aganist the allotment of land at a place far removed from their reversionary successors? If so, whether any instructions have be n issued to the authorities to respect the wishes of the widows?

Parliamentary Secretary: Such cases have come to the notice of the Government. It has been decided that the land to widows, who wish to remain with their reversioners, should be allotted al ng wlth them.

Sardar Partap Singh: May I know the policy of the Government in regard to the allotment of lands to those widows, who do not wish their lands to be contiguous to those of their reversioners, as they are afraid lest the latter should deprive them of their property?

Parliamentary Secretary: The hon. Member may rest assured that the decision of the Government is to respect the wishes of a widow in the matter of allotment of lands. If she desires to remain with her reversioners, she will get land contiguous to theirs and *vice vers*.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: Is it a fact that hon. Minister for Rehabilitation personally issued instructions to the Assistant Director Rehabilitation to make a lotment of particular lands to particular individuals?

Mr. Speaker: Disallowed.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know whether any instructions were issued by the Government that drastic action will be taken against officers guilty of infraction of allotment rules ?

Parliamentary Secretary: Yes. Besides this, any violation that was made inadvertantly by an officer, has been set right.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know what action has been taken by the Government in connection with the violation of the rules ?

Parliamentary Secretary: Action is taken against those officials who violate the rules due to corruption and favouritsm.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know the nature of this violation ?

Parliamentary Secretary: There has been violation in the cases of small Zamindar allottees who were replaced by big Zamindar allottees and instructions have already been issued to the effect that big Zamindar allottees should be replaced by those small Zamindar allottees who were asked to make room for the latter.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Has the Government taken any action against such officers ? Have such officers been dismissed ?

Parliamentary Secretary: Action against such officers who violate the rules for indulging in corruption and favouritsm, is being taken and would be taken.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Is it a fact that the work of the Rehabilitation Department appears to be paper activity only. Is it also a fact that only statements are being issued from time to time and no substantial work is being done by the department ?

Parliamentary Secretary: Work is being done and would be done under rules framed by the Government.

Shrimati Sita Devi: The Parliamentary Secretary has just now stated that Government has arrived at some decision regarding the refugee widows to the effect that they can be allotted land contigious to their reversioners. Is it a fact that when they submitted applications they were told that allotment had already been made and that revised decision could be possible only by instituting an appeal to the higher authorities ?

Parliamentary Secretary: The statement of the Lady Member is correct to some extent. She has already worked in charge of women's section. There were many such cases and Government issued special instructions about them. According to these instructions the difficulties about the cases of those widows who were not eligible and which also stood in the way of the A. D. Commissioners have been removed. Those widows who are now eligible under rules are allotted land contigious to their reversioners according to their wishes. This work is now going on successfully.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Is it not proper and advisable on the part of the responsible Governments to strictly follow the statements made by them and also the rules framed by them ?

Mr. Speaker : It is a question of opinion only.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is the Government going to take action in such cases only which bear direct evidence of corruption and favouritsm ?

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Is it a fact that scheduled caste refugees who were allotted squares of land near Jullundur, were asked to make room for these refugees who too were already settled on land in the District of Amritsar ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It may be a fact. However, I wish to point out for the information of the hon. Member that if a person has been asked to make room for others against his wishes, he would be asked to return to the original land allotted to him. There would thus be no injustice and if there be any, that would be set right.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Would they be asked to return to their original land allotted to them ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Yes, they would be asked to return.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : In reply to part (*b*) above in which it is stated that a non-official Committee has been appointed and that it has been functioning, may I know whether it is a fact that Dr. Lehna Singh resigned from the membership of this committee on the ground that the powers of this committee are in name only. If it is fact, then may I know whether Government has taken any steps to improve the rules with a view to making them more effective ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Government has not received any resignation from Dr. Lehna Singh, a member of this committee. I have gathered this information from the Director General, Relief d Rehabilitation, only the other day. I have come to know tha' 'Tribune' had published this information and that Government s not so far received any such resignation from him. So far as the allegations published in the 'Tribune' are concerned, I wish to make it clear for the information of the hon. Member that they are all wrong and baseless. As a matter of fact Government is taking action according to the recommendations of this committee appointed by it.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it a fact that Dr. Lehna Singh sent his resignation to the hon. Premier on the 27th September ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is not within my knowledge.

TRANSFER OF TAHSILDARS TO PATTI, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

***1240. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta** : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that three Tahsildars one after the other were ordered to take charge of Patti Tahsil in Amritsar District and that these orders were cancelled by the Government ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(*b*) the names of the Tahsildars referred to in part (*a*) above ;

(*c*) the authority which cancelled the transfer orders ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) :

(*a*) Yes. The orders were cancelled not by Government but by the Commissioner, Jullundur Division, for Administrative convenience.

(*b*) It is regretted that it is not the policy of Government to disclose the names of officials.

(*c*) Commissioner, Jullundur Division.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta : May I know the Administrative convenience on the basis of which transfer orders were issued ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The same Administrative convenience which already exists.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta : What were the main difficulties which stood in the way of the Government and thus prompted it to cancel its previous orders ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The Commissioner, Jullunder Division, must be knowing that. He must have cancelled the orders in the interests of the administration.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta : What was the main reason for doing so ?

Minister : In certain cases the Deputy Commissioners desires that a certain officer should continue to work at a particular place and should not, therefore, be transferred in the interests of the admidistration. There are other considerations of which the Commissioner is not fully aware at the time of issuing transfer orders. Such orders are changed or cancelled on the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Does not the Government think it advisable and in the interests of the public to issue instructions to the Commissioners to call for the recommendations from the Deputy Commissioners before issuing any transfer order ?

Mr. Speaker : It is a suggestion for action.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

Employment of Non-Refugees in Local Bodies.

*1401. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma** : Will the hon. Minister for Labour be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government directed that after 15th August 1947, no non-refugees were to be employed in Local Bodies in the Province, and all vacancies were to be filled by refugees ;

(*b*) whether it is also a fact that this instruction was issued in January 1949 ; if so, was it to be given a retrospective effect ;

[Pandit Shri Ram Sharma]

(*c*) the position of those local employees, whose appointments were made before 15th August 1947, but who took charge after that date ;

(*d*) whether Government afterwards asked Local Bodies to get appointments of such non-refugee employees approved by the Government as were appointed after 15th August 1947. but before the above-mentioned instruction was issued in January 1949 ;

(*e*) the action Government propose to take against such Local Body Authorities, who instead of getting the approval of the Government have dismissed such employees ;

(*f*) whether the Executive Officer, Rohtak, for whose removal the Municipal Committee, Rohtak, has already passed a resolution by a more than 5/8th majority, is not one of such officers ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

(*a*) Yes, provided that where a suitable refugee from West Punjab was not available for any particular post, a refugee from elsewhere or a non-refugee could be appointed with the approval of Government.

(*b*) No. The instructions were issued first in September 1947, and again in January 1948 and they were given retrospective effect.

(*c*) Since the employees in question did not take over charge before the 15th August 1947, their posts are treated as vacant on that date.

(*d*) No such instructions were issued.

(*e*) Government do not propose to take any action against such Local Bodies.

(*f*) No.

TRANSACTION OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, 20TH OCTOBER 1949.

Premier (The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindustani*) : I beg to move—

> That Rule 13 of the East Punjab Legislative Assembly Rules be suspended and the Assembly shall transact Government business on Thursday, 20th October 1949.

Sir, while moving this motion, I think it necessary to give reasons that have prompted me to move it. Originally

3 P.M.

it was thought that the Assembly business would be finished by the 18th. But a situation has arisen for which I think it necessary to ascertain the opinion of the House whether hon. Members would like to continue the session. I do not want to create this impression that I am anxious to terminate

the present session or in other words I am afraid of facing the House any longer. On the other hand I would like to take the House into my confidence regarding the happenings which have formed the subject of various reports in the press. I am referring to the intention of certain Members to bring in a vote of no-confidence against the Premier in the party meeting. As this matter concerns the conduct of he Premier in his official capacity and as he has been charged with corruption and favouritism, I would like to prolong the present session to give hon. Members an opportunity to bring in a vote of no-confidence against me in the House so that I may also be able to explain my position as this matter does not concern me as an individual.

Sardar Swaran Singh : On a point of order, Sir. Is this all relevant to the motion before the House ?

Mr. Speaker : I will ask the hon. Premier to restrict himself to the motion only. The motion does not relate to any charges of nepotism and favouritism.

Sardar Swaran Singh : My respectful submission, Sir, is that so far as the affairs of the Congress Assembly Party are concerned, they cannot be brought under discussion on the floor of the House. Any reference to the conduct of the Premier by way of confidence or no-confidence can only be made if there is any such motion before the House. What is happening or what is going to happen in the Congress Assembly Party cannot be a subject matter for discussion here and any reference to those matters is uncalled for.

Mr. Speaker : I would ask the hon. Premier not to make any reference to party questions.

Premier : I was explaining, Sir, the reasons for extending this session beyond the 18th October. As this matter directly relates to the official conduct of th Premier, I would for the information of the House like to lay a copy of the Memorandum submitted to the Parliamentary Board by certain Members of this House in which certain charges have been made against me. I want to give an opportunity to the hon. Members of this House so that they may be able to decide whether they want to prolong this session in order to discuss these charges. Nobody should be under the impression that I am afraid of facing this House on that score and, therefore, want to terminate this session.

Minister for Finance : On a point of order, Sir. Can any document which is not relevant to the question before the House be brought in and be allowed to be laid on the Table of the House ?

Mr. Speaker : Anything which is not relevant to the motion before the House cannot be allowed to be laid on the Table.

Premier : I have no intention of discussing these charges here and now, nor do I want to make any reflection on any hon. Member. I just want to take the sense of the House as to whether they want the session to be prolonged for the purpose of discussing

[Premier]

this matter. I would like to add, Sir, that I am not placing any matter before the House which does not concern the House. As these charges have been made against me as Premier of the Province, I have placed them before the House so that all the hon. Members may know about them.

Mr. Speaker : No Member of the House has brought any charges against the hon. Premier here and if any such thing has been outside the House, it cannot be allowed to be placed on the Table.

Premier : I am not saying anything about the charges that have been levelled against me. I only wish to point out that there has been much talk about these charges in the press and I would, therefore, like to afford an opportunity to those Members who wanted to move a motion of no-confidence against me to do so here on the floor of the House.

Minister for Finance : I rise to a point of order, Sir. How can anything that has appeared in the press or any charges that have been levelled against the Premier outside the House be allowed to be brought in here ?

Mr. Speaker : Any document which is laid on the Table of the House becomes the property of the House. As far as I am aware no charges have been made against the hon. Premier in the House itself nor has any no-confidence motion been moved. Anything that has happened outside the House whether in a party meeting or elsewhere cannot be allowed to be brought in before the House or allowed to be placed on the Table of the House.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : On a point of order, Sir. When you have been pleased to give your ruling, the memorandum should be returned to the hon. Premier.

Mr. Speaker : Thank you very much. I can see to that myself.

Premier : I would leave it to the hon. Members to decide whether they would like to extend the session. I want to afford an opportunity to the hon. Members to bring forward a motion of no-confidence against me on the floor of the House. These are the reasons for which I have moved this motion and it is for the hon. Members to accept it or not. I will, however, not press it.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

> That Rule 13 of the East Punjab Legislative Assembly Rules be suspended and the Assembly shall transact Government business on Thursday, 20th October 1949.

Sardar Swaran Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural) : Sir, so far as the motion before the hon. House itself is concerned, to my mind it is not so very controversial and I greatly wish that the hon. Premier should not have introduced matters while making a speech in support of his motion, which are hardly relevant to the motion itself. So far as our affairs of the party are concerned they are matters which can properly be discussed and decisions taken

upon by the party itself. This hon. House will take note of such matters as are properly brought before this House. There are certain rules of party discipline but the House has never been bothered about the rules of the party and the affairs of the party, and that is the most appropriate thing. The hon. Premier is there and unless there is any vote of no-confidence in him on the floor of the House he continues to occupy that position. It was highly improper on the part of the head of the Government to refer to certain charges and attempt some sort of a circuitous reply to them. So far as this House is concerned, in the absence of a substantive motion expressing want of confidence in the leader, there was hardly any reason to refer to what has appeared in the press or to what the hon. Premier says has been put forward on behalf of signatories to the Congress Parliamentary Board. These affairs are party affairs and the traditions of this hon. House are such that the affairs of the party are not made a subject matter of discussion one way or the other.

So far as any particular motion that may be moved at any stage in this honourable Houe is concerned, the House will proceed to take proper steps if and when any such a motion is moved. In this connection I am reminded of the attitude of a student who sat in an examination and when he found that the questions set were of such a nature of which he did not know the reply he started by saying, "let me prove my binomial theorem first". The hon. Premier started proving his binomial theorem on the pretext of making a speech in support of his motion. Because he has tried to usher in from the back door certain observations while supporting his motion, therefore, it has become my painful duty to oppose the motion which has been moved by the hon. Premier. (*Cheers*).

So far as the privilege of the House to transact non-official business is concerned, it is a privilege and a right which cannot be lightly ignored. The executive always have their say. They put forward executive measures and they have opportunities to express their view point on various items and on various matters which they place before this hon. House. They are always a privileged set of people, so far as Legislative Assemblies are concerned. Their motions have precedence over others and they can at very short notice bring forward their motions and take decisions on certain important matters, but so far as the day for non-official business is concerned it also is an important feature of the Legislative Assemblies. It is on that day only that the non-official view point can be expressed and put forward on behalf of the Members of the House. Unless a very strong case is made out by the executive for taking up Government business on that particular day, the House should not be made to forego the right to transact non-official business on Thursdays. So far as the speech of the hon. Premier is concerned, he has not been able to say that there is any justification for dispensing with the rule on the day which has been specified for the purpose. The only thing that he says is that certain matters which are foreign to the House may take such a turn and may make it necessary to prolong the session in which we are sitting. So far as these matters are concerned, they have nothing to do with the transaction of Government business on Thursday. The session can

[Sardar Swaran Singh]

be extended or terminated according to the decision arrived at by this hon. House and the question as to whether Government business has to be transacted on that day has got no relevancy whatsoever to the question which the hon. Premier has tried to make out by saying that it may be necessary to prolong the session of this House. Therefore, so far as the arguments put forward by the hon. Premier are concerned they have got absolutely no force because if the Government feels that the business has not been fully transacted or there are important measures about which the decision of the hon. House is necessary to be taken, then the proper thing would be to bring forward a motion saying that the session of the Legislative Assembly be prolonged. But transacting of official business on the day fixed under the Rules of the Assembly for non-official business has nothing to do with the argument which the hon. Premier has tried to build. The House, therefore, has got a right to insist that the Rules of Procedure which have been drafted after considerable care should be adhered to and in the absence of regular opposition, it is all the more necessary that the departures from these rules should be as few as possible. It is not proper nor is it fair that the executive should encroach upon the rights of the non-official members by putting forward official business on a day provided under the Rules to transact private members' business. Therefore, Sir, in the absence of a decision on the floor of the House we should be extremely jealous to preserve the tradition that there should be no inroads and encroachments upon the rights of the non-official members. Sir, I feel that it will be a serious encroachment upon the rights of the non-official members of the House if this motion as moved by the hon. Premier is accepted. I have purposely refrained from taking notice of the side remarks of the hon. Premier so far as matters foreign to this House are concerned, because I am absolutely clear in my mind that these affairs have nothing to do with the business of the House. On the floor of the House, only such matters about which there is a proper motion, can be debated upon and arguments can be addressed for or against allegations which might be put forward by one side or the other. So far as our party affairs are concerned, there are certain advantages or disadvantages attached to the fact that we are all members of one particular party. And all those privileges and disabilities which accrue from the fact that we are members of a democratic party the rules of which we have voluntarily accepted, should be cheerfully faced. The results that might flow from the decision of that party is a matter which cannot be debated on the floor of the House in the absence of a substantive motion one way or the other. Without taking much time of the House I appeal to the hon. Members of this hon. House that we should throw out the motion which has been put forward by the hon. Premier and we should decide that non-official business as provided under the Rules should be transacted on the day which is fixed for the purpose. The hon. Premier has not been able to make out any case for the suspension of Rule 13 of the East Punjab Legislative Assembly Rules. Suspension of this Rule is a very serious matter and unless a very strong case is made out, there is no justification for suspending a Rule of this nature. (*Cheers*).

Premier : I brought in this motion in view of the fact that 21st is the Diwali day and 22nd and 23rd October are also holidays.

Sardar Swaran Singh : We appeal to the hon. Premier to withdraw his motion.

Premier : If that is the sense of the House.........

Mr. Speaker : I can take the sense of the House either by a division if it is called or by putting the question to the House. There is no other way.

(*Shri Prabodh Chandra rose to speak*).

Mr. Speaker : I would ask the hon. Member not to repeat what has already been said. He should try to be strictly relevant to the motion before the House.

Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Prabodh Chandra) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh in his speech gave the instance of a foolish student who he said like the hon. Premier, not knowing the solution of any problem in an examination, started solving the Binomial Theorem as he knew that very well. This reminds me of a group of three persons passing by a tree on which sat two birds. The birds chirped. All the three men tried to guess as to what they said. One of them was a 'bania' or a shopkeeper and according to him they said :

ਲੂਣ, ਤੇਲ, ਅਧਰਕ ।

लूण तेल अद्धरक ।

The second was a Jat and he felt that they had said :

ਖਾਓ ਘੀ ਔਰ ਕਰੋ ਕਸਰਤ ।

खाओ घी और करो कसरत ।

The third man was a pious and religious fellow and he gave out that both of his friends were wrong as the poor birds had said :

ਭਗਵਾਨ ਤੇਰੀ ਕੁਦਰਤ ।

भगवान तेरी कुदरत ।

So I am led to think that it was not the fault of my hon. Friend. It was due to some mania that had got into his head.

Hon. Members : Withdraw, withdraw.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should withdraw his remark.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I withdraw.

Mr. Speaker : Please try to be relevant and do not bring in any matter which can be the subject matter of any other motion which might be brought before the House.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, I was as a matter of fact surprised to find my hon. Friend playing the role of a defender of the dignity and privileges of the Members of this House. I ask him in case he is so particular about what he says, why did he sometime ago rob the Members of their rights by getting the Assembly prorogued by the Governor ?

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : On a point of order, Sir. Can an hon. Member make a reference to the Governor in his speech ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra : My hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh said that party affairs should not be brought into this House. I also wish to adopt the same course. But as even a child in the street is aware that we have indulged in mud throwing beyond all measure, it would be proper if we do not regard the matter under consideration as a private affair. I am in a position to say that all that is discussed in this House is as much the property of this House as that of the people in general. I know that one crore and twenty lakhs of the people who inhabit this Province take greater interest in provincial affairs than the 78 or 79 Members of this House do and we certainly have no right to play with their feelings.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member is not relevant at all. The question before us is whether Government business should be transacted on Thursday or not. He should leave aside public opinion or anything of that sort. I request the hon. Members who wish to speak on this motion to be relevant and not to repeat anything which has been already said.

Shri Prabodh Chandra; One of the arguments advanced by my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh, while opposing the motion was that the hon. Premier referred to party affairs which should not have been brou ht in. Everybody knows who are the wire-pullers of the present Ministry.

An hon. Member : Is it relevant ?

Mr. Speaker : No such references please.

Sardar Kehr Singh : One of these wire-pullers is Maulvi Abdul Ghani.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member must know the rules.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : As stated by the hon. Premier the object of bringing this motion was to transact Government business on a day, which was otherwise meant for non-official business. As you are aware, Sir, the Stamp Duty Bill could not be passed during the last session of the Assembly and this resulted in a loss of about two million rupees to the Provincial ex-chequer. It is in order to avoid some important Bills being left unpassed that this motion has been made. Another reason for it is that if the session is extended till after Diwali a large amount will be spent on the travelling allowance of Members.

Sardar Swaran Singh : The Stamp Duty Bill is fixed for to-day.

Shri Prabodh Chandra ; I shall again request the hon. Members to accept the proposal for transaction of Government business on next Thursday, which is ordinarily meant for non-official business, so that as much work may be finished as possible. Leaving aside political considerations, we should prevent any loss being caused to the Province by not carrying some urgent measures in time.

Mr. Speaker : I would ask the hon. Members to discuss this question in friendly spirit keeping up the dignity and decorum of the House. They should not be swayed by party factions. I again request all hon. Members not to use any undignified or unparliamentary expression.

Sardar Partap Singh : The question be now put.

Mr. Speaker : I would like to hear Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt also.

haudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly, representing North Eastern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I have risen to request the hon. Premier, Shri Bhim Sen Sacher, that keeping in view the gravity of the situation and the present political condition, he should withdraw the motion moved by him. We have a democratic system of Government in our country. In all democratic countries, some conventions have come to be established which govern the mode of action in times of emergency. In the party system of Government, differences are bound to exist, but these do not stand in the way of decisions being taken for avoidance of danger to the country. Certain conventions have come into existence which govern the course of action in times of difficulty, irrespective of party affiliations. Differences may exist on the higher plane or on the lower plane. If certain principles which have developed in countries having party system of Government are not adhered to, democracy cannot succeed. I beg to submit that taking a long distance view of the matter, we should not import extraneous factors into our discussion and should realise the gravity of the situation. The hon. Premier as well as his Parliamentary Secretary referred to party system during their speeches. The former referred to a charge-sheet, which is an entirely private matter. It was presented before the Central Parliamentary Board.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member too should not refer to these matters.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : I referred to it in order to explain the hon. Premier's state of mind. Whether consciously or due to its existence in his sub-conscious mind, he had made this motion on account of this reason. I shall, therefore, request him again to withdraw his motion.

Another thing which I wish to enquire for the guidance of all hon. Members of this House is whether this motion has been moved on behalf of the Government or by the Leader of the House in his individual capacity. Before we can decide this delicate issue, we should be told whether the proposal has been made by the Cabinet

[Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt]

on the basis of joint responsibility or by the Leader of the House alone. We are now faced with an important matter relating to the democratic procedure. You, Sir, are the custodian of the rights of this House. I, therefore, submit that the House should be informed whether this motion has been brought before the House by the hon. Premier in the capacity of the Leader of the House or this has been done on behalf of the Government as a whole. Fortunately or unfortunately some of the hon. Members have their sympathies with the hon. Premier while others favour the other group. We, therefore, want to know whether this motion has been brought forward by the Government or by the Leader himself.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of order, Sir, I want to know if it is necessary that the mover of a motion should tell whether it has been brought forward on his own behalf or on behalf of somebodyelse.

Mr. Speaker: Every hon. Member has a right to introduce any motion he likes.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Sir, there are various forms of representative democracy, such as parliamentary form, etc. In our Province, we have now a representative Government and it is present before us in the form of the Cabinet. The hon. Members of the House want to know whether this motion has been brought forward by the East Punjab Government representing the East Punjab Congress Assembly Party or by the Leader of the House. I hope that the hon. Premier will give us this information without going into other political considerations. We should not wash dirty linen in the House.

Mr. Speaker : I find there is no washing of dirty linen in the motion.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : I may, however, submit, Sir, that I am against this motion and I appeal to the hon. Premier to withdraw it. In the end, I hope that the hon. Premier, in case he does not withdraw the motion, will give the necessary information to the House to enable the hon. Members to arrive at a decision.

Premier (The hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, if I had wished that the motion moved by me must be passed, I would have issued an official whip and no hon. Member could have opposed it in that case. But since I wanted to enable the hon. Members to express their opinion in an unfettered manner, I did not issue any whip. As regards the things said by my hon. Friend just now, I should better keep silent, because he himself knows what the real issues are. The hon. Members of the House are free to form their views about the motion. I have already given them perfect liberty in the matter.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Question may now be put, Sir.

Premier : From what has been said by the hon. Members on this motion, I find that the sense of the House is against it. As I stated before, if the hon. Members do not want it, I will not press it.

Mr. Speaker : Do I take it that the hon. Premier wants to withdraw his motion ?

Premier : Yes, Sir. (*Applause*)

The motion was by leave, withdrawn.

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE

Minister for Finance (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava): I lay on the table of the House the supplementary statment of Expenditure (1st Instalment) for the year 1949-50 authenticated by the Governor under Section 81 of the Government of India Act, 1935.

As required by Section 81 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I hereby authenticate the following supplementary statement of expenditure for the financial year 1949-50, which specifies—

(*a*) the supplementary grants made by East Punjab Legislative Assembly in its session held in October 1949, and

(*b*) the sum required to meet the expenditure charged on the revenues of the Province.

Supplementary Statement

No. of Demand	No. of Grant	Major head included in Demand	Voted	Charged	Total
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
		1—SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS			
1	12	28—Jails and Convict Settlements ..	11,49,290	..	11,49,290
2	15	37—Education ..	2,12,120	6,550	2,18,670
3	16	38—Medical ..	9,860	..	9,860
4	31	56—Stationery and Printing	5,12,580	..	5,12,580
5	32	57—Miscellaneous ..	55,870	..	55,870
		Grand Total ..	19,39,720	6,550	19,46,270

SIMLA:
The 14th October, 1949.

C. M. Trivedi
Governor of East Punjab.

INDIAN STAMP (EAST PUNJAB AMENDMENT) BILL

Minister for Finance (The hon. Dr Gopi Chand Bhargava) : I introduce the Indian Stamp (East Punjab Amendment) Bill.

Minister for Finance (*Hindustani*) : I move—

That the Indian Stamp (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

[Minister for Finance]

Sir, this Indian Stamp (East Punjab Amendment) Bill was brought before the House during the last session of the Assembly, but at that time, it could not be taken up. I am not one of those who believe in repeating the by-gones and expl ining reasons why this Bill was not taken up then. This Bill has been under the consideration of the Government as well as the public for a pretty long time. It has been approved even by the High Court which is the authority to enforce it when passed. The one thing that has been kept in view while framing this Bill is that the poor people should not be affected by the increase in the stamp duty. I, therefore introduce this Bill and hope that the House will pass it.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Indian Stamp (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sardar Swaran Singh (Jullundur, West, Sikh Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, the Bill under consideration deals with a very important matter. It is a fiscal enactment. While it is hoped that it will bring some more money into the Provincial Exchequer, it is also very n ce sary that the various provisions of the Bill must be fully considered. Under the existing Stamp Act, the stamp duty to be levied on various kinds of legal documents is fixed and this Bill now seeks to enhance that duty. If the stamps fixed on a legal document are of less value than is prescribed in the Stamp Act, it involves serious implications. The document, in that case, becomes a mere piece of paper and such document cannot be produced in a court of law to establish the case. The law does not take cognizance of the contract entered into by the parties in such cases. In some cases of this kind, the parties have to pay a heavy penalty to make up the deficiency in the stamp duty, while there are cases in which no amount of penalty can validate the document and the document carries no legal sanction with it. So this Bill seeks to fix the stamp duty to be levied on legal documents. Under the law, stamps of prescribed value are to be affixed on all legal documen s. Generally all people know what stamps are to be put on various documents which concern them. But they are at present without any knowledge of the changes that are proposed to be made by this amending Act. So in the absence of any knowledge they are liable to make mistakes. Any writing would become inadmissib'e in evidence merely because out of ignorance stamps have been affixed the value of which is one anna less than that fixed by th's Act. This will add to the difficulties of the people. People in the rural areas are uneducated and illiterate. It will take some time before they actually become familiar with the changes made by this new Act. In the beginning they will face hardships and embarrassments. It is of urgent importance that first of all they should be given complete knowledge of these changes, so that they may thoroughly acquaint themselves with them and come to know what effect they will have upon their transactions. Government's first concern should be to give a wide publicity to these changes. The Act authorises the Government to fix a date when it thinks proper to enforce it. Sir, through you I beg to suggest to the Government that it should not rush through

this measure. Of course, delay in enforcing the Act will entail foregoing some gain that would accrue to the exchequer through this Act but, considering the difficulties of poor people, I hope the Government will act in a slow and steady manner. This is an important measure and if the public is not fully familiarized with it, a large number of persons will make mistakes. The penalty for affixing a stamp of less value is that the document will be inadmissible in evidence and so the person concerned will have to suffer for that. Government should give sufficient time to the public and should give a wide publicity to the facts and figures of the Act. The purpose of the Stamp Act is so important that it will be improper if, in its anxiety to have enhanced revenues at an early date, the Government puts the people in difficulties. It is a technical matter. If stamp of a less value is put on the document evidencing a transaction of one lakh of rupees, it becomes inadmissible in evidence; this will be a great injustice to an ignorant person. So I would request the Government that while arriving at a decision with regard to the date of enforcing the Act, due regard may be paid to what I have said above.

Minister for Labour (The hon. Sri Prithvi Singh Azad) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I wish to say a few words on the points raised by my hon. lawyer Friend. He has placed the difficulties of the people in respect of the enforcement of this Act before the Government. The Government fully realizes these difficulties. When ths matter was before the Committee, full consideration was given to them. High Court Bar has also expressed its considered opinion on the matter. The fear that people will not be fully familiarized with these changes in the rates of the stamps on legal documents is unfounded. Sub-section (3) of Section 1 has been introduced with this object in view. I assure the House that full publicity will be given before the Act is enforced. Government is not oblivious of this matter. It has already kept this thing in view. When this Bill is passed

4 p.m.

into law, it will not be enforced till Government is satisfied that the people have made themselves thoroughly acquainted with its provisions. I may assure the House that every endeavour will be made to publicise it in the languages easily understood by the public, before its enforcement. It goes without saying that Government have undertaken this moral responsibility and this will have the force of law. So my hon. Friends need have no apprehensions on this account. So far as the necessity for enacting this Bill into law is concerned, it is obvious that our Province is passing through a period of acute financial stringency and we have to tap every source of revenue to meet the deficit. This Bill is intended to augment the revenues of the Province. It is, therefore, in the fitness of things that the House passed it without any further delay. With these words I commend this Bill to the House for its acceptance.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Indian Stamp (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The Bill will now be taken up clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1

SUB-CLAUSES (2) AND (3).

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That sub-clauses (2) and (3) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 2 TO 8.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 2 to 8 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

SUB-CLAUSE (1)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

PREAMBLE

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Preamble be the Preamble of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Labour (The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad) : I move—

That the Indian Stamp (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

———

COURT FEES (EAST PUNJAB AMENDMENT) BILL

Minister for Labour (The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad) : I introduce the Court Fees (East Punjab Amendment) Bill.

Minister for Labour : I move—

That the Court Fees (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr Speaker : The House will now consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1

SUB-CLAUSES (2) AND 3

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That sub-clauses (2) and (3) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried

CLAUSES 2 TO 5

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Clauses 2 to 5 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried

SCHEDULES 1 AND 2

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Schedules 1 and 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

SUB-CLAUSE (1)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

PREAMBLE

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Preamble be the Preamble of the Bill.

The motion was carried

TITLE

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Labour : I move—

That the Court Fees (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be pasaed.

The motion was carried

PUNJAB MOTOR SPIRIT (TAXATION OF SALES) (EAST PUNJAB AMENDMENT) BILL.

Minister for Finance (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I beg to introduce the Punjab Motor Spirit (Taxation of Sales) (East Punjab Amendment) Bill.

Minister for Finance (*Hindustani*) : I move—

> That the Punjab Motor Spirit (Taxation of Sales) (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sir, when the Punjab Motor Spirit (Taxation of Sales), Act was passed, it contained no provision vesting powers in the Government to grant reduction in the amount of tax or exemption from the payment of this tax in deserving cases. The necessity of this was felt when the Government of India asked the Provincial Governments to show concession or grant exemption from payment of tax on the sale of petrol to the companies plying aircraft or to the civil aviation clubs. This step has been considered necessary in order to give a fillip to the development of aviation in the country. Hence this amending Bill has been put forward to empower the Government to charge less tax or grant total exemption from its payment on the sale of petrol required for aviation purposes.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

> That the Punjab Motor Spirit (Taxation of sales) East Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The Bill will now be taken up clause by clause.

CLAUSE 2

Sardar Sajjan Singh (Patti, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, I wish to make two or three submissions to the Government through you. It is a well known fact that those companies which ply aeroplanes are very affluent. It is, therefore, essential that they should be taxed to the maximum extent. If our Government shows any concession to them or grants them any exemption from the payment of tax on the sale of motor spirit, then I have serious apprehensions that it would earn a bad name and would stand discredited in the eyes of the public. I may also point out that since the Congress Government came into power, it has resorted to heavy taxation and I am sorry to say that majority of the taxes have been imposed upon the poor people. The capitalists and men of property have invariably been shown leniency in the matter of assessment of taxes. Now, so far as this Bill is concerned, Government is treading the same path. It seeks to exempt big capitalistic companies plying aeroplanes from the payment of tax on the sale of motor spirit. It is obvious that this action of the Government will result in a loss to the Provincial Exchequer and the loss thus incurred would be made good from the poor people by subjecting them to further taxation. I feel that the passing of this Bill would be tantamount to

perpetrating a grave injustice on the poor people. Now the honourable Members are aware that the Congress Manifesto on the basis of which we have been returned to this Legislature, clearly lays down that the Congress, on assumption of power, would endeavour hard to reduce the crushing weight of taxes on the poor. We should honour that promise and that can be translated into action only if the wealthy and capitalistic people are subjected to heavy taxes. Thus we can hope to meet the deficit from which our Province is suffering. I am, therefore, of the opinion that Government should not pass the proposed amending Bill into law. If this is done, I am sure, we will be in a position to convince the public outside that our Government is following the Congress principles strictly and is thus crushing capitalism gradually. We will also be in a position to tell them that our Government is imposing heavy taxes on the capitalists and is at the same time reducing the burden of taxation on the poor. The public would thus be convinced for themselves that our Government is strictly following the very principles for which the Congress stands. If the Bill under consideration is passed, this would tantamount to going back on the Congress pledges. Under the circumstances, I wish to request the hon. Premier to circulate this Bill for eliciting public opinion instead of rushing it through during this session. If it is circulated for public opinion, people at large would get a chance to register their opinion on the subject. I do not think that the proposed measure is in any way an emergency measure required for the maintenance of law and order in the Province. My feeling on this point is that the Government should not have moved this Bill at all. Since the Government has thought it fit to do so, I would urge the Government to accept the circulation motion. In fact it does not matter if the proposed measure is enacted during the next session and not in the present one. But if at all the Government is bent upon granting some concession to the capitalists, then there are various ways of doing so. I want that minimum powers should be given for granting such concessions. If the powers as provided in the proposed Amending Bill, are meant for granting concession to the capitalists only, then I cannot help saying that such steps would injure the reputation of the Government. It is, therefore, in the fitness of things that Government should levy maximum taxes on the rich class of people. If this Bill is passed during this session, I think it will not find favour with the public opinion outside. Under the circumstances, I would suggest that the Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion.

Sardar Swaran Singh (Jullundur, West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I rise to make a few observations in regard to the Bill now before the House. It seems that my hon. Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh who has raised certain objections in the course of his speech has not paid full attention to the wording of the amendment which it is proposed to make in the original Act. Under the provisions of this Bill, it is proposed to empower the Government to exempt any retail sales of motor spirit from the liability to pay tax. I am quite in agreement with my hon. Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh on the point that we should frame our taxation policy in such a

[Sardar Swaran Singh]

manner that the rich are taxed more heavily than the poor or in other words more taxes are levied on the rich and the incidence of taxation is ccmparatively less on the poor. It would have really been in the fitness of things if this principle had been kept in view in framing the taxation policy. According to this principle, Government could be permitted to exempt certain retail sales from being taxed. It would have really been better if instead of providing wide powers as proposed in the Bill, Government had made mention of certain kinds of sales which in their opinion were necessary to be exempted from the liability to pay tax and had thus brought in some specific articles to this effect. I hold that the executive authorities do exercise vague powers in an arbitrary manner about such taxation measures and are thus at liberty to exempt any type of sale from being taxed as a result of which the executive authorities expose themselves and are often subjected to vehement criticism. Sometimes, the executive authorities make use of these powers to suit their own ends or in other words they abuse these powers for grinding their own axe. There is no doubt about it that there is some justification for the public to fear the abuse of the powers by the executive authorities and I am sure, such a thing would not exist when the executive has earned a high name for honesty. In the circumstances, it is proper on the part of the Government to mention those specific sales which in their opinion are intended to be exempted from the liability to pay tax instead of providing general powers as proposed in the Bill, now before the House.

Further, I wish to point out that the proposed amendment which is intended to be incorporated in the original Act reads as under :—

> The Provincial Government may by notification exempt any retail sales of motor spirit from liability to pay tax....

It is crystal clear from this that no limitation, whatsoever, exists as to the types of sellers and purchasers so far as the retail sales are concerned. There is also no limit on the quantity. While welcoming such a legislative measure on behalf of the Government, I would stress the desirability of specifying those retail sales which are intended to be exempted from the tax. What I wish to point out is that Government should give an assurance to the effect that it is their intention to exemnt certain types of retail sales. It is, therefore, in the fitness of things that the Government should specify the retail sales and thus take the House into its confidence. If it is subsequently felt that any change is necessary, then it can be made by passing a resolution in the House to that effect. Further, the phraseology of the proposed amendment also appears to be too general. I take this opportunity to request the Minister-in-charge to specify the quantity of the article and the purpose for which it is meant. In my opinion, some sort of limitation should be there.

Minister For Finance (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I am really very thankful to my hon. Friends who have in the course of their speeches demanded some assurances from the Government to the effect that it would not exempt any

retail sales of motor spirit from the liability to pay tax simply with a view to granting some concession without any ryhme or reason. I wish to assure them that the provisions of the Bill now before the House, would not be made use of in that manner, As a matter of fact, Government feels the necessity of increasing its income. My hon. Friends know it full well and they must be remembering the fact that we did so and raised the incidence of the general sales tax. We increased the rate of taxation and we were thus able to enhance our income.

It has also been said that it is the intention of the Government to exercise wide powers in this matter. But I wish to bring this point home to them that the proposed powers are simply meant to be exercised for exempting certain retail sales from the payment of tax. At present we want certain retail sale to be exempted and it is just possible we may feel the necessity of exempting some other retail sales in future. Hence the provision for general powers.

Further, my hon. Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh has in the course of his speech pointed out that if this amending Bill is passed into law, rich people alone would be granted exemption from the payment of this tax. If my hon. Friend had studied the history of the Civil Aviation, I am sure he would not have raised this objection. For the information of the hon. Member I wish to quote a few lines from the Civil Aviation Report of Government of India which run as under :—

> Cost of aviation spirit is a heavy item of expenditure on flying planes and the services are operating at heavy losses.
>
> The heavy cost of operation is also acting as an obstacle in the rapid development of flying efforts of flying clubs or private individuals. Civil aviation will also be a second line of defence....Development of civil aviation needs no emphasis....

Secondly, under the international law, this tax is not charged on motor spirit consumed by planes operated by foreign companies for inland traffic. Those companies are, therefore, at an advantage, so far as the cost of operation is concerned, as compared with the Indian air companies who have to pay this tax for all the motor spirit consumed by them. It was realised that as a result of this obvious disadvantage, our companies operating planes between Culcutta and Delhi or between Culcutta and Bombay could not compete with foreign companies. Keeping this in view, the Government of India had agreed to allow a rebate on petrol consumed by Indian Air Companies. The Provincial Governments were also asked either to exempt them from payment of sales tax on motor spirit, or to reduce the incidence of this tax in their case. I may assure my hon. Friend that we have not in view the interests of any particular class of people. It is for the considerations of national interest that we want to have powers to exempt certain sales of motor spirit from liability to pay tax. I do not think any one will object, if these powers are used only to help the cause of civil aviation. It is with this end in view, that we commend this Bill to the House.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Finance: Sir, I move—

That the Punjab Motor Spirit (Taxation of Sales) (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

REFUGEES REHABILITATION (HOUSE BUILDING LOANS) (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Minister for Revenue (The hon. Sardar Joginder Singh Mann): Sir, I introduce the East Punjab Refugees' Rehabilitation (House Building Loans) (Amendment) Bill.

Minister (*Punjabi*): I move—

That the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (House Building Loans) (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (House Building Loans) (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing Lyallpur and Jhang General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, this Bill amends the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (House Building Loans) Act which provided for the grant of loans for house-building purposes to refugees who have resettled in towns. Past experience shows that the provision laying down the forming of co-operative societies or associations for grant of loans has not in actual practice worked well and has proved a stumbling block in the way of refugees getting loans. Failure to comply with such conditions has been depriving the refugees of the much-needed relief in the form of loans. So provision should now be made to facilitate the getting of loan by individual refugees. Moreover,

the houses which refugees might build should not be kept mortgaged against the loans advanced to them such conditions prove obstacles often in unsurmountable in the way of resettlement of refugees.

As regards the amount that is proposed to be advanced as loan, I must say that it is insufficient for the purpose of house-building. It must be increased considerably, if it is to serve its purpose. Past experience shows that there should be an Advisory Committee of Non-Officials to put before the Registrar, Co-operative Societies and the Financial Commissioner, the view point of the refugees and to guide them on matters connected with the grant of house-building loans. It is only then that the officers-in-charge will be able to know the grievances and demands of the refugees. By incorporating these suggestions, the Bill under discussion can be improved and made more effective. In the alternative, the Government can give these facilities to the refugees by issuing suitable rules under the Act when it is passed.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha (Jullundur, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I do not want to say much on this Bill. I just want to stress that the proposal embodied in this Bill should be translated into action as early as possible. The refugees are in great distress, having spent whatever little they had and whatever little they could get by selling away their ornaments, in the hope that sooner or later they would be getting some monetary help from the Government. They have been fed on promises and lip-sympathy so far. A deep sense of frustration prevails among them. Past experience shows that none of the measures adopted by the Government for helping the refugees to resettle, proved of any avail. The refugees have not received the benefit of either the grants or the loans. I cannot say where the money has gone. It has not reached the refugees, at any rate. Even if a refugee succeeds in getting some grant sanctioned, he does not get it or if he gets it, it is only half or even less than half of the amount sanctioned. The rest is swallowed by the officials of the department. So it is necessary for the Government to ensure that the sanctioned grant or loan reaches the applicant. This is all that I have to say with regard to this Bill.

Minister for Revenue (The hon. Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, the chief object of bringing this Amending Bill before the House, is to give powers to Registrar Co-operative Societies, Rehabilitation, in the matter of administering loans. This was necessary in view of the policy of the Government to give house-building loans, as a rule, to Co-operative Societies. So far as Shri Sethi's suggestion of giving loans to individuals is concerned, I might remind him that under the provisions of the original Act, an individual refugee can apply for a loan. This Bill has been brought before the House in order to regularise the provisions of the Ordinance that was issued some time back. Shri Sethi has suggested the provision of a Non-Official Committee to be associated with the work of giving loans. As there is nothing to prevent the Provincial Government from appointing such a Commit-

[Minister for Revenue]

tee, I do not think a provision to this effect is necessary in the Bill itself. What Shri Chodha has stated is to some extent correct. No loans have so far been given to people living in villages. The reason is that the quasi-permanent allotment is not yet complete. When people have been allotted land, it will only then be possible to ascertain their requirements and give them loans according to the purposes which they would specify. With these words I commend this Bill for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (House Buil ing Loans) (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSES 2 TO 7

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 2 to 7 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Revenue : Sir, I move -

That the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (House Building Loans) (Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

REFUGEES REHABILITATION (LOANS AND GRANTS) (AMENDMENT) BILL

Minister for Revenue (The hon. Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann) **:** Sir, I introduce the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Loans and Grants) (Amendment) Bill.

Minister for Revenue : I move—

That the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Loans and Grants) (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Loans and Grants) (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Ex-Member, West Punjab, Assembly, representing Lahore City, General, Women, Urban) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I would say something about the Bill which is at present under discussion before the House. There is no doubt about the fact that the Central Government has sanctioned crores of rupees for loans and grants to be given to the displaced persons. But the way in which these have been given has not been satisfactory, with the result that refugees have derived no real benefit from these loans and grants. I would like to draw the attention of the House to an objectionable part of the Bill. It will be noticed that the assistance that has been given to widows in the form of loans and grants is only a joke as the sum advanced ranges from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50 and in a few particular cases which were duly recommended the amount has been raised to Rs. 200. These unfortunate women had to face great difficulties in getting these petty loans as the procedure for verification takes a good deal of time and subsequently they have to satisfy that the amount so received was utilized for the purpose for which it had been sanctioned. I would also point out that even women who possessed property in Pakistan have also received no financial assistance from the Government.

According to the present Bill the loans will be given to co-operative society or association or bodies of individuals. I would draw the attention of the House to the fact that this system of granting loans to a co-operative society or an association or a body of individuals will not work satisfactorily. I had a talk with the hon. Minister for Finance on this subject and he told me that the people did not favour the idea of taking loans through co-operative societies as the conditions were such as involved difficulties. They did not like to be dragged into trouble by fulfilling the necessary conditions. Their difficulties will not be solved but rather aggravated by the passing of this Bill. Particularly women will not be able to derive any benefit therefrom. Sometime back a deputation of women waited upon the hon. Minister at Jullundur and requested him to give some financial assistance to such women who had left behind property in Pakistan, in the form of loans and grants, but to their disappointment the hon. Minister has not thought it fit to consider their request favourably. Sir, I would submit that the conditions that have to regulate the grants of such loans are such that with the exception of a few persons the refugees will not be benefited by this measure. Suppose any person out of the body of individuals turns out to be dishonest, all the persons will be held liable for the payment of loan advanced to them. Under the circumstances like the present everybody will show hesitancy to apply for loan under this system. The Government of India has sanctioned crores of rupees to help the displaced persons, but I think they will be of no avail as refugees will not be able to derive any material advantage by virtue of this Bill.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing North Easteran Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, the present Bill that has been introduced by my hon. Friend Sardar Joginder Singh Mann, Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, is a very important one, but I regret to find that most of the hon. Members are not in their seats. This Bill has been brought forward to facilitate the rehabilitation of refugees. But I am sorry to point out that the provisions of the Bill do not leave ample scope for the refugees to rehabilitate themselves properly. In voicing the feelings of refugees in this matter, I would not like to use strong words as in view of the situation like the present, I am afraid that they may be misconstrued. However, I may make it clear that I am not saying so with a view to making any political capital out of it or to oppose anybody or for that matter to enhance the prestige of opposition group, but I would frankly say that if these are the measures that are being adopted by the Government, they will not positively be able to rehabilitate the refugees.

Sir, I say that the Indian Government or for that matter, no Government has even cared to feel the huge and untold losses that have been suffered by the refugees. Very small and insignificant schemes are placed before the Province and the country as if they would meet the situation. Nobody bothers about a large scale planning if there had been any over-all planning or a superstructure of plans which had embodied small schemes. I would certainly have felt grateful. But I am sorry to say that we are all groping in the dark in the absence of a master-planning and, therefore, have not been able to resettle a very large majority of our displaced people. It is true that so far as refugees of the rural areas are concerned, their rehabilitation did not involve so great difficulties as are found in the case of the unfortunate refugees of the urban areas. These people for whom these loans are particularly intended are generally shop-keepers or businessmen and form the middle classes of our Province. They are faced with unimaginable and insurmountable difficulties and our Government, both Central as well as Provincial, have done precious little to see them resettled. I am certainly not satisfied with the work of the Indian Gevernment whose attention has from time to time been drawn by the representatives of the refugees in the Constituent Assembly to this fact. But the pity is that the Provincial Government too is somnolent. After all it should have taken some positive steps to approach the Central Government for grant of adequate funds by which it could rehabilitate the urban refugees who form a majority in this Province of the East Punjab. It appears to have done nothing of this kind.

Sir, in my Budget speech this year I stated that the various Governments of our country were doing quite a good deal for resettling the refugees. I regret having made this statement as I now find that it is not in keeping with the realities of the case. I do not want to conceal the truth. No doubt that we have got only one party in this House, namely the Congress Assembly Party, but this does not mean that we should not criticise the unseemly acts of the Government. Here let us take the example of loans that are being given to our displaced brethren. It appears as if loans are being given

to them not for purposes of resettlement but to befool them. In the Bill it is said that "the amount of grant which may be given to a refugee under this Act shall not exceed Rs. 500". I ask, will such a grant be of any help to the people who led luxurious lives in places while in Pakistan and are now lying on the roads and in the camps in a helpless and miserable condition ? I have no hesitation in saying that if somebody believes that a widow or a shopkeeper can be resettled with a despicable sum of Rs. 500 he is certainly devoid of common sence. As for the loans it is stated that an individual should not get more than Rs. 5,000 and that a group or a Registered Co-operative Society, not more than Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 25,000 respectively. I know that the individuals who apply for a loan of Rs. 5,000 will not get anything more than Rs. 2,000 and what they will do with that sum passes my comprehension. Yes, the Co-operative Societies are to be given Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 25,000. But will anybody tell me what import or export trade would be started by a Society with this amount particularly at this juncture when we have an adverse balance of trade and when we are no match to the commercial concerns of other countries like those of Brasil, etc ? After all what profits will be made by a Society with this capital in these days of cut-throat competition and will the members of such a Society be in a position to maintain themselves and their families ? I am sure that their position is not going to improve and they will remain where they are like the proverbial bullock of the oil press. We all know that money for loans cannot be made available from the Provincial exchequer and that it must be got from the Central Government. But unfortunately we have not the strength to place our demand before that Government, though we can quarrel with each other all right. I dare say that it is proof positive of lack of initiative, enterprise and everything.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member has used certain words which are a reflection on the House.

Minister for Revenue : Sir, he also includes himself when he talks of the whole House.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Sir, my remarks are not directed only towards Sardar Joginder Singh Mann and I have absolutely no desire to make a political capital out of my speech. I castigate all Congressmen as they have failed to do anything in this direction. I tell them that their prestige and reputation will be seriously undermined if they are not able to stern the rising tide of the refugee's misfortunes. The files of the refugees are heart rending and to say that everything is being done for them is nothing short of playing with their feelings. A strange sympathy is being shown to them. It is learnt that instructions have been issued to the officers concerned that they should advance loans only to the Co-operative Societies and not to individuals. In other words, our Government is attempting to enforce a socialistic system of economy. But in all seriousness I ask, why so only in the case of refugees from the West Punjab when the people of the East Punjab are allowed to enjoy their wealth in the form of vast tracts of land and huge commercial concerns ? To practice two systems of economy under

[Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt]

the same Government and in the same Province or for that matter in the same country, is not understandable to me. In this matter, I challenge not only the Provincial Government but also the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation in the Central Government that there cannot be different economies for different sets of people. At present one economy is being observed for the refugees and quite a different one for others. Why should loans not be advanced to individuals ? There would have been some sense if the House decided to nationalize all land and factories in the Province and to run these on co-operative basis. Instead of doing anything of that type, a system is being carried on under which the hon. Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann or the hon. Shri Mohan Lal Saksena can do what he likes. In this Bill there is a provision that loans can be advanced to individuals as well as to Co-operative Societies. What will be its result ? Those who wield some influence will be able to get loans as individuals while others will be asked to form Co-operative Societies. What are after all the prospects of these Societies ? Is there any chance of their success ? If refugees are asked to form Co-operative Societies, why are not others asked to do the same ? Why not nationalize industry and socialise the whole society ? For these things we are told that there are not sufficient funds with the Central Government. Are refugees alone to be singled out for facing all kinds of difficulties ? They are not being permitted to raise their standard of living. At present no comparison is made between the standards of living of refugees and others. The former are expected to have one standard and the latter quite a different one. This distinction is unnatural and cannot last. Whichever Government may be in power, it is its duty to pay proper attention to the rehabilitation of urban as well as rural refugees. The question of grant of loans mainly concerns the urban refugees. We have to see as to how much money is required for their resettlement. Wherefrom is the necessary money to be obtained ? This is the crux of the whole problem. As I have said several times before, refugee problem is a financial problem. No other problem can be solved till all the refugees are properly rehabilitated. I remember having attended a Conference in Delhi in which hon. Shri Gopalaswamy Ayyangar said that necessary help would be given to the refugees but those promises appear to have borne no fruit. On the other hand, Pakistan Government has introduced very rigorous evacuee law while we are still thinking over it. Is everything being done for doing propaganda in foreign countries that refugees are being afforded suitable facilities ? Why does the Government not frankly admit its failure and permit the refugees to do whatever they could for their rehabilitation ? If the Government is serious about resettling the displaced persons, it should act firmly. Our Provincial Government has greater responsibility in this matter. Nobody in Delhi pays any heed to our needs. The Punjabis are humiliated in Delhi as well as in the United Provinces. We are in fact not respected in any part of India. The people and the Government of East Punjab should have the courage to tell the Government of India that independence had been achieved on account of our sacrifices and if nothing is done for us

in time, we would be extinct before long. The amount provided for our rehabilitation is very meagre. We should fight for obtaining, more money from the Government of India. The work done by the Government so far is insufficient and unsatisfactory.

Another thing which I wish to point out is that in this Bill emphasis has been laid on the formation of Co-operative Societies. There should be no distinction between individuals and Co-operative Societies in the matter of grant of loans. The conditions which have been laid down for the grant of loans are very rigorous. These should be made milder. Our Government is acting like Shylock and wants to dictate terms to those who wish to obtain loans. Instead of concentrating on assuring the return of money advanced by it, the Government should attach greater importance to the rehabilitation of refugees. The difficulties which some persons had to face and the conditions which they had to fulfil for obtaining loans were such that one would be pained to hear about them. As I said in this House about a year and a half ago, the Government should not insist on the return of loans under all circumstances. This is a fundamental fact which should not be forgotten. I am not inciting people not to pay back loans, but the position is going to be that they will not be able to do so. I have placed these points before the hon. Minister because he like myself is also a refugee. This equally concerns all of us and leaving aside political or party differences, we should take unanimous decision in the matter. This problem is such that if it is not solved, the Government will be no more.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh (Hoshiarpur West, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, whether it be Shri Sachar's Government or Dr. Gopi Chand's, we will have to admit that the East Punjab Government has failed in resettling the displaced persons. It is all the more sad that even Shri Bhim Sen Sachar who is himself a refugee, has failed to solve this problem.

5 P. M.

Mr. Speaker : I would ask the hon. Member not to mention names. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar is not responsible for the Government in his individual capacity.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : I was saying, Sir, that the present Government, even though it is headed by a refugee person and includes two more refugee Ministers, has not been able to resettle the displaced persons. I know they are not to blame, for the resettlement of these people. Money is required and unless the Central Government gives us sufficient aid in this matter, this huge problem of rehabilitation cannot be solved. We will have to admit that a major part of the money we have already received from the Centre for this purpose, has been squandered away on the distribution work and only a little has actually reached the persons for whom it was meant.

As regards the Co-operative Societies, I may point out a Co operative Society under the rules cannot declare its dividends. It can benefit only those share-holders who are its whole-time

[Chaudhry Kartar Singh]

employees and draw salaries. It can employ labour and other staff. Apart from this way of benifiting their share-holders, the societies are not permitted to declare dividends for the benefit of other share-holders. At present, if some persons collect Rs. 25,000 from among themselves and start a Co-operative Society, they cannot declare their dividends and divide them among the share-holders. As a matter of fact, even to-day, the system of Co-operative Societies is the same which obtained in the days of the British Government. I will, therefore, request the hon. Minister to get the rules regarding Co-operative Societies amended so that the refugees who start such Societies with the aid of the Government are allowed to get the dividends after paying income-tax to the Government. Under the present circumstances, the Societies can benefit only those share-holders who draw salaries while others get nothing by way of their share in the dividends. If the Government advances loans to the societies of refugees as such, naturally the purpose of helping the refugees will not be served. Just as the previous loans meant for distribution among the refugees went into the hands of a fortunate few who were friends and relatives of the officials, this scheme will also be a fraud on the poor refugees. The people who can approach the Ministers will get loans for Co-operative Societies whose entire dividends will go into the hands of a few share-holders such as the Manager and the Managing Director, in the form of salaries. On the other hand if the Government is really serious about resettling the refugees, the rules regarding the Co-operative Societies will have to be amended. While a large number of share-holders will be benefitted in this way, the Government also stands to gain by way of more income-tax. If these rules are amended the Government can help a greater number of people.

There is one thing more which I would like to place before the House. The Government of India no doubt is faced with serious economic difficulties at the present time and added to these are those resulting from the devaluation of the rupee. We are faced with difficulties in the matter of imports of machinery from foreign countries. But our ills cannot be remedied unless we get money from the Centre. For this purpose, the House should fix a day to discuss this problem and then the Government of India should be strongly urged to grant us the maximum financial aid. Only the other day, we heard that the Government of India was going to discontinue the scheme of Bhakhra Dam. If that is done, I may point out the Government of India will be creating a new class of refugees besides those who are already dying of starvation. It is this Province which provides the Government recruits for the Army on thirty rupees a month and it is those soldiers who are now facing bullets for the country in Kashmir on heights of 17,000 feet. I would urge upon the hon. Premier to fix a day for discussing these matters and the Government of India should be told not to discontinue the scheme of Bhakhra Dam and further, if that is done the number of refugees in this Province will beeome so large that the Government will not be able to manage it.

The present Congress Government has been in office for the last two years. But I cannot help saying that we have miserably failed in rehabilitating the refugees and yet we say that ours is a Congress Government. If we do not warn the Government of India at this time, I am afraid we shall have to meet the fate of Bengal in the days of the British Government. But I may tell the Government that the Punjabis are a proud people and will not die quietly before the Government House like the Bengalis. I have not come across any Punjabi refugee dying of hunger in Delhi. But all the same, I know how difficult and hard, life is for them. I do not blame any Minister for this sad state of affairs. We cannot help the refugees unless we get financial aid from the Government of India for this purpose. I know we have badly failed in distributing the money we have already received. Only thirty per cent of that money has gone into the hands of the refugees while the remaining seventy per cent has fallen into the pockets of those responsible for the distribution work. Some of this money was appropriated by the Members of the Committes for themselves and the rest for their friends and relatives. The deserving people remained as they were. I have heard people abusing the Members of this hon. House, because of malpractices. But I know that most of all, it is the administration that is bringing us a bad name. The officials have regard neither for the country nor for the Congress. They provide facilities, firstly to their friends and secondly to the Members of the Committees. All the same, we should tell the Government of India in trumpet tones that the Punjabi refugee will not meekly accept his own ruin and the money already spent on rehabilitation has not done him any good.

There is one thing more which, I want to place before the House. The Central Government has advanced money in the form of loans to the people who carry on trade in the towns and cities. But may I ask, what has been done for those rural people, the agriculturists, who put their lifetime's earnings on land, but could not bring their bullocks and buffaloes even ,after the partition ? Now they are helpless ; they have no means for sinking of wells and purchase of cattle. Has the Government ever thought of starting a bank for the rehabilitation of those unfortunate people ? Our Government should urge upon the Government of India to grant us a loan of Rs. 10 crores for the purpose of rural rehabilitation. The amount that is being spent on rural rehabilitation is very small as compared with that spent on urban rehabilitation, although rural population contributes more to the general revenues of the Government in the form of land Revenue. It is the duty of the Government to pay more heed to the needs of the agriculturists. I wish to impress upon the Government of India that liberal help should be extended towards rehabilitation of rural refugees. What I wish to submit is that there should first be carefully thought-out plans. Haste always makes waste. The present rules of the Co-operative Societies are defective.

Mr. Speaker : These defects have already been pointed out.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: Sir, my suggestion is that a Committe should be appointed to see that help extended to refugees may not fall into a few hands.

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Narotam Singh) (*Punjabi*): The problem of rehabilitaion of refugees is still unsolved. Of course, the Central Government has given a generous help in this matter. The Provincial Government has also done whatever little it could do with its meagre resources. It appears that the problem has not been tackled as it should have been. I have made a study of the problem as it arose during the World War II in European countries. There, all the nations rendered help to the refugees irrespective of political and national considerations. All countries sent whatever articles they could for the use of the refugees. We can learn a lesson from Europe. All Provinces in India should treat it as their problem. Not only that. It should, in fact, be considered as an internationl problem. It should be taken to U. N. O. for solution so that on humanitarian grounds all nations may render whatever help they can. Sometime back lottery system was suggested in connection with the collection of funds for the purpose of rehabilitation. This system was made use of when the Nazi atrocities created a refugee problem in Europe. It was successful there. Here in India also we can employ this device for collecting money. There is nothing bad in it. Every Province should consider it its duty to contribute its mite towards a successful solution of this problem. The examples of other countries are before our eyes. If each Province makes up its mind to be of use to the refugees, their hardships will banish in no time. There is no dearth of agricultural land in India. There is enough scope for cultivators as well as for traders in this vast country of ours. East Punjab will shortly be faced with the problem of traders. The number of traders and merchants who have migrated to East Punjab from West Punjab is very heavy. Our Government being a secular one checked the riots with a firm hand so that the number of Muslims who migrated to Pakistan was not very excessive. In the long run this policy may be in the interests of this country but at present we do feel the hardships very much. The only solution of this is that other Provinces should come to our help. They should take it as their first and foremost duty to render financial aid to the distressed people. Funds should be collected throughout India in aid of the displaced persons and these funds should be utilised for the benefit of as many persons as possible. For this purpose, as I have already suggested, the scheme of collection by lottery should not be considered bad because it has already been made use of by civilized countries of Europe. The resources of East Punjab are not such as to cope with these great problems. We can only look up to the Central Government and the people of India for help. The people of West Punjab sacrificed their all at the altar of Indian Independence. When we approached A. I. C. C. for embarking on the scheme of lottery in aid of refugees our request was turned down. It is for the Central Government to put it or any other scheme into practice so that something constructive may be done for those who suffered for the sake of the country.

Parliamentary Secrtary (Sardar Ajit Singh) (*Punjabi*): Sir, some of the hon. Members of this House have given expression to their ideas and feelings on the question of rehabilitation of refugees. It has been admitted that the resources of the Government of this Province are insufficient to cope with this situation and we have to look to the Central Government for help. Some of the hon. Members have suggested ways and means for the consideration of the Government. I wish to submit that pressure should be brought to bear upon the Central Government in this respect. All the people of this vast sub-continent must contribute their share in this direction. It is through their efforts that East Punjab can hope to rise again from the present state of helplessness. So far as the efforts of the East Punjab Government in the matter of rehabilitation of refugees are concerned, it has been doing its utmost and to the extent to which its finances could permit. My hon. Friend Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt would bear me out from his close and personal knowledge of the affairs in this connection which he got during his stewardship of the finances of the Province.

Then, Sir. I fail to understand the opposition of my friends to the passage of this Bill. I may tell them that this is only an amending Bill of an Act which we have already passed on this subject. This amendment is only of an enabling character and is not intended to effect any substantial change in the law. The Bill in question seeks to vest powers in the Registrar of Co-operative Secieties to administer loans to the Co-operative Societies. It no longer debars or deprives individual refugees from the grant of loans. In this connection I would draw the attention of this hon. House to Section 4 of the Bill which clearly fixes the limit and amount of loans to be made to an individial refugee, a group and a Co-operative Society. It is nowhere laid down that an individual refugee shall not get any loan. So the apprehensions of my hon. Friend over there in this regard namely, that the individual refugee has been unfairly treated in the matter of grant of loans, is entirely unfounded. Besides, I may tell the hon. Members that the provisions of this Bill are already in force in the form of an Ordinance. The object of this measure is to continue in force that Ordinance by permanent legislation. I, therefore, see no reason why objection should be taken to pass this Bill.

Then complaints have been made that loans have been given to individual refugees only to the extent of two hundred rupees, which are absolutely insufficient to run a business or start an industry. I find that my hon. Friends while making these complaints, have been labouring under a misapprehension. The loans mentioned by them were in fact grants which were made over to the refugees just to rehabilitate themselves. These grants are not refundable. Loans are quite different from them. They are advanced to the extent of rupees five thousand to an individual refugee, Rs. 20,000 to groups and Rs. 25,000 to Co-operative Societies for purposes of doing business and setting up of industries. The hon. Members will thus see that we have been doing our best and to the utmost of our capacity to help refugees

[Parliamentary Secretary]

rehabilitate themselves properly. In view of this I think the House should enact this Bill into law without any further delay. Besides this, I assure the House that if the Central Government grants us more money or our own finances improve, the refugees will have every right to demand for more loans. I would, therefore, appeal to the hon. Members to pass this Bill to enable the Government to offer every help to our distressed brethren to the best of its ability.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the chair and it was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker.)

Minister For Revenue (The hon. Sardar Joginder Singh Mann) *(Punjabi)* : Sir, I have listened with rapt attention to the speeches made by my hon. Friends in connection with the difficulties experienced by the refugees. I admit that during the last two years not much has been accomplished to improve the miserable plight of the refugees and they are yet in a pitiable condition. It needs no mention that the Rehabilitation Department prepared several schemes holding out assurances to allot lands within two months and thus making the refugees prosperous in no time. But all their schemes and estimates turned out to be incorrect. None can gainsay the fact that the rehabiltation of refugees has been the most baffling problem which confronted the Government. I think no amount of effort that can be put in to improve the refugee's lot can be considered too great. As a matter of fact we want to do much more than the little mite that has so far been accom plished. But we have our limitations and they are an obstacle to the achievement of this end.

Then my hon. Friend Chaudhri. Krishna Gopal Dutt remarked that this Government granted loans to individual refugees to the extent of Rs. 100. In his opinion Rajahs were better than this Government because if they wanted to help somebody, they would liberally give Rs. 20,000 to him. The hon. Member should know that this is the democratic age which has brought the princely order to the level of commoners. A prince could grant Rs. 20 thousand to a single individual but here we have to help millions of displaced persons. Each one of them is to receive fair and equitable treatment. No doubt we had promised to help our distressed brethren liberally but I am sorry to say that owing to financial stringency the Central Government has not been able to keep its promises of advancing the same amount of money which it had done before. As a result of this we had to abandon many of our rehabilitation schemes, which would have for reaching effect on the amelioration of the refugees. In this connection I would tell my hon. Friend Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt that if he had devoted a little of his energy, which he mainly uses in thinking of ways to wreck the Ministry, to work for the good of the refugees, it would have impressed and made the Government of India grant more help to our made brethren. We work day and night to ameliorate their condition.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : But the hon. Minister also fritters his energy in making statements about the making and unmaking of ministries.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt: May I tell the hon. Minister that howsoever much time he may spend in rehabilitation work, he would not be able to accomplish much without brain ?

Minister for Revenue : I would not retaliate by using hard words. I would only say that it does not lie in the mouth of an old Congressman like him to talk in this fashion. Well, Sir, I was going to say that much of the money allocated for rehabilitation purposes has been consumed by the salaries of the officials employed to run the department.

Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi: This state of affairs went on even in the presence of the hon. Member ?

Minister for Revenue : Yes. Their salaries had been fixed long before I took over and nobody could undo that. I may tell my hon. Friends that these white elephants will continue despite their efforts to the contrary. Ministries may come and ministries may go, these elephants would go ever strong. (*Laughter*).

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : This is a confession of ministerial incapacity.

Minister for Revenue : Now what I want to suggest is that if the Government of India has failed or is not willing to levy a general tax meant solely for the rehabilitation of refugees, the Government of this Province should impose a tax in the East Punjab with a view to rehabilitating those women who for want of any shelter are being tossed from pillar to post and are thus leading a miserable and ignominous life. The proceeds of such a tax should be utilised in the establishment of poor houses where these women could find a safe haven.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : Why does not the hon. Minister bring in a Bill to achieve this object ?

Minister For Revenue : I would suggest to the hon. Member to take the initiative and I will support him. As a matter of fact the hon. Premier Shri Sachar had planned to put such a cess and we were getting this Bill prepared for the next session of the Assembly.

The Bill, now before the House is an Amending Bill. None of my hon. Friends has so far moved any amendment to it. It would have really been helpful if my hon. Friends had proposed some amendments with a view to making some improvement in the Bill. Even now the hon. Members are open to propose some amendments. In these circumstances I would request my hon. 'Friends to support the passage of the Bill now before the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Loans and Grants) (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : The Bill will now be considered clause by clause.

CLAUSES 2 TO 8

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 2 to 8 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Revenue (The hon. Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann) : I move—

That the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Loans and Grants) (Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjoured till 2 P. M. on Tuesday, 18th October 1949.

East Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

18TH OCTOBER 1949

Vol. IV—No. 6

OFFICIAL REPORT

GOVT. PUNJAB

CONTENTS

Tuesday, 18th October 1949

Printed at O. K. Printing Press, Simla 1950

Price Rs. 1-3-0

EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Fourth Session of the 1st East Punjab Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 18th October 1949.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 2 P. M. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

LAND WASHED AWAY BY FLOODS IN CHOS IN HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

*1229. **Pandit Mohan Lal Dutta :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether he is aware of the fact that during the last two years, lands of a large number of peasants in Hoshiarpur District have been washed away by the floods in chos ;

(*b*) the relief that the Government has given or intends to give to such persons ;

(*c*) the special measures the Government intends to take to stop the havoc caused by chos ;

(*d*) whether it is not a fact that the measures hitherto adopted have not checked the destruction by the chos ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(*a*) During the last two years, as usual some lands have been washed away or damaged by floods in chos in the Hoshiarpur District.

(*b*) No relief has been given nor any such case is under the consideration of Government at present.

(*c*) Soil conservation works are being carried out by the Forest Department to control cho menace in the District.

(*d*) No. The vegetation of hills has considerably improved which has reduced the run-off of water and silt.

COMMUNIST DETENUS.

*1207. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the total number of the Communist Detenus confined in various Jails of East Punjab, on 1st April 1949 and 1st September 1949, respectively ;

(*b*) the total number of Communist workers arrested and detained under the Public Safety Act from 1st April 1949 to 31st August 1949 ;

(*c*) the total number of the Communist Detenus released, but restricted in their villages or towns after their release from Jails from 1st April 1949 to 31st August 1949 and the number of

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

those detenus not restricted in their villages or towns, but banned from writing articles or delivering speeches ;

(*d*) the total number of applications received by the Government from the Communist Detenus for the grant of family maintenance allowances uptil 1st June 1949 ;

(*e*) the number of cases considered and rejected ;

(*f*) the number of cases in which family allowances were sanctione uptil 31st August 1949 ;

(*g*) the total amount sanctioned per month as family maintenance allowance uptil 31st August 1949 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(*a*) Part 1 200

Part 2 246

(*b*) 138

(*c*) Part 1 41

Part 2 1

(*d*) 117

(*e*) 57

(*f*) 31

(*g*) Rs. 1,158 per month.

Thakur Dalip Singh : Is the Government aware of the fact that the maintenance allowance as sanctioned by the Government is very meagre ?

Premier : I require notice for collecting this information.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it a fact that the allowance sanctioned by the Government for the families of the detenus is hardly sufficient for their maintenance ?

Premier : I cannot give a reply off hand.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it a fact that the Communist Detenus have gone on hunger-strike as a protest against the non-fulfilment of their demand for clothes ?

Premier : I have laid their demands on the table of the house.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know how many cases were considered for the grant of maintenance allowance and out of them how many were recommended by the Advisory Committee ?

Premier : I require notice for collecting this information.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that the Committee recommended seventy cases for release but only two communists were released ?

Premier : I thank the hon. Member for supplying this information.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if the Advisory Committee is the same which was constituted by the previous Government ?

Premier : I do not exactly remember.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Will the Government consider the advisability of taking M. L. As. on this Committee at the time of constituting such a Committee ?

Mr. Speaker : It is a suggestion.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it not a fact that the hon. Premier had stated during the last Budget Session that this Government would bring the maintenance allowance at par with other Provinces as the present allowance as sanctioned by the Government was inadequate for the maintenance of the detenus' families ?

Premier : The Ex-Premier would have considered this question at the time of fixation of such allowances.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is the Government aware that Communist detenus are on hunger-strike from 20th September 1949 ?

Premier : Yes.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know what the Government propose to do for these detenus who have gone on hunger-strike ?

Premier : I think the Ex-Premier would have considered this question ; if not the present Government would do all that is necessary.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Leaving aside what the Ex-Premier might have done. May I know what the present Government propose to do in this behalf ?

Premier : I cannot say anything off hand unless I study their case.

Thakur Dalip Singh : May I know what are the demands of these detenus who have gone on hunger-strike ?

CONFISCATION OF PROPERTIES OF COMMUNIST WORKERS.

***1208. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the names of the communist workers together with their home addresses in each district of the East Punjab Province who were wanted by the Police under Public Safety Act but could not be arrested and whose properties have been confiscated ;

(*b*) the nature of the properties confiscated ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that any arrangements have been made by the Government for the maintenance of the dependents of the absconders ; if so, the nature of the arrangements made ;

(*d*) the number of the dependents of each one of those communist absconders whose properties have been confiscated ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bharagava :

(*a*) It would serve no public interest to disclose the names

[Premier]

and addresses of these absconders. They are only to such absconders ; one belonging to Ferozepur District and the other to Amritsar District. If the hon. Member is interested in any particular case the necessary information will be supplied to him.

(*b*) Movable property in one case worth about Rs. 100 and in the other case worth about Rs. 20.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that the Government has also confiscated the properties of the relatives of the Communist detenus ?

Premier : I require notice for this question.

Thakur Dalip Singh : On a point of privilege Sir, the replies given by the hon. Premier are not satisfactory.

Mr. Speaker : That is not a point of privilege. Probably the hon. Member wants to raise a discussion on this subject under Rule 12. If that is so, he will have to give notice for that in writing.

REPEAL OF CRIMINAL TRIBES ACT.

***1209. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware of the fact that Criminal Tribes Act has been repealed in the Province of Madras, Bombay and United Provinces and in these Provinces now no one is declared criminal simply on account of his birth in a certain Tribe alleged to be criminal under the statue ;

(*b*) whether the Government has under consideration any such proposal to repeal the Criminal Tribes Act likewise ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(*c*) the total number of the persons effected by the Criminal Tribes Act at present ;

(*d*) whether the Government is aware of the fact that at present no housing accommodation is being provided at the Reformatory settlement at Amritsar for the families of the Criminal Tribes and the Departmental staff employed to keep a watch over them ; if so, the steps Government proposes to take to shelter them during the coming winter ;

(*e*) whether the Government is aware of the fact that during the recent rains they (criminal tribes families at Amritsar) were subjected to great hardships ;

(*f*) whether any information was communicated to the Government by the Deputy Commissioner, Criminal Tribes on this point ; if so, with what result ;

(*g*) the total expenditure incurred by the Government in

. connection with the various reformatory schools, other institutions and reformatory settlements from 1st April 1948 to 31st March 1949 including the expenses of the staff for the administration of this department ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(*a*) Yes ; so far as Provinces of Bombay and Madras are concerned. As regards United Provinces the Criminal Tribes Act is still in force.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The total population of criminal tribes in East Punjab is just over 1,00,000.

(*d*) Government is aware that the Criminal Tribesmen detained in the Reformatory Settlement at Amritsar are housed in a camp of outer-flies, like those provided for the refugees from West Punjab. Government is considering proposals for provinding roofed accommodation for the Amritsar Reformatory. During the last winter the inmates were supplied quilts at Government expense.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) Yes. Suitable steps were taken to afford all possible relief to the affected families.

(*g*) Rs. 3,60,500.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is the Government aware of the fact that a representation signed by a large number of persons has been submitted to the Government for the repeal of the Criminal Tribes Act ?

Premier : Such a representation might have been received by the Ex-Premier. When the case comes up before me, I will see that the Act is repealed as early as possible.

TOLL TAX AT HARIKE.

*210. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour be pleased to state :—

(*a*) Whether the Deputy Commissioner Amritsar wrote to the Commissioner, Jullundur Division. in the months of March, June and Agust, 1949, stating therein (*i*) that the arrangement for the collection of toll tax at Harike, District Amritsar ferry was defective and there were great chances of its being mis-appropriated and (*ii*) that this ferry be put to Public auction and given on contract basis ;

(*b*) What action ; if any ; was taken by the Commissioner on the Communications mentioned in (*a*) ;

(*c*) If no action was taken, the reason therefore ;

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad.

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Commissioner referred the matter to Government.

[Minister of Labour]

The Deputy Commissioner has been asked to auction the lease of the ferry for one year.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know why this matter was kept pending for 1¼ years ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, wrote to the Government in January 1948 that the arrangement was defective but the Government did not take action for a period of 1½ years ?

Minister : Steps will be taken as early as possible.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know if there is any ferry in the territory of East Punjab which is not directly under the administrative control of the Government ?

Minister : I require a fresh notice for this question.

GOVERNMETNS SERVANTS CLASS IV.

***1244 Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware of the fact that peons and other Government servants class IV employed at Simla under the Central Government of India are getting Rs. 30 as salary, Rs. 35 as dearness allowance, Rs. 3-8-0 as quarter allowance, Rs. 5 as Simla allowance and Rs. 3-8-0 as coal allowance per month the total being Rs. 77 per month ;

(*b*) whether the Government servants class IV of the Government of East Punjab working at Simla are getting the same salaries and other allowances, if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(*a*) Yes, but only during the period from November to March. During the remaining seven months they get only Rs. 73 per month ;

(*b*) No.

(*i*) The pay of our peons has never been on a par with those of the Central Government in Delhi/Simla.

(*ii*) When the Government of India, as a result of the acceptance of the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission, raised the pay of their peons to 30-½-35, the East Punjab Government fully considered the question of revising the pay of their peons, and fixed it at Rs. 20—½—25, with the result that East Punjab peons posted at Simla now draw Rs. 57 against Rs. 49-8-0 per month previously drawn by them.

(*iii*) There were many considerations that had to be kept in mind while undertaking this revision such as, the desirability of keeping some suitable margin between the pay of a peon and a Junior Clerk, the repercussions of

such an upward revision on the general inflationary tendencies and the domestic servants in particular. Nor could the weak financial position of the Province be ignored while dealing with this question.

(iv) It would not be out of place to mention here that no other Provincial Government in India, with the possible exception of Bombay, have followed the Government of India in this respect. The Government of Orissa have only recently revised the scales of pay of their Government servants on the recommendations of the Provincial Pay Commission appointed by them (Orissa's finances are much better than those of East Punjab) and have fixed the basic pay of their peons at Rs. 18—½—24 as against Rs. 20—½—25 fixed by East Punjab Government.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it only for financial reasons that the Chaprasis of the East Punjab Government are paid smaller salaries than those paid to the Chaprasis of the Central Government, though all of them have to live at Simla ?

Premier : It is due to the reason that the standard of pay of the Central Government is higher than that of the East Punjab Government.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Has the question of paying higher salaries to the Chaprasis anything to do with the discontinuance of special pays paid to high Officers in the Secretariat ?

Premier : Both of the questions are to be discussed and decided on merits.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is the Government aware that the salary of a peon alongwith allowances is not sufficient to maintain even a single individual at Simla ? If so, what steps are being taken to remove the hardship of the peons ?

Premier : The Government does not fix salaries of officials according to their expenses.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Should not the Government pay enough at any rate, to keep the people living ?

Premier : I only say that it is not in the power of Government to pay more for financial reasons.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Why should not the Government raise salaries of the low paid servants when this deficit Province can afford to pay fabulous salaries to the high Officers ?

Pandit Mohan Lal Dutta : Will the hon. Premier kindly reduce his salary in order to accommodate these poor Chaprasis ?

Premier : It is a request and not a question.

Shri Virendra : Has the Government taken the trouble of considering this question during the last six months ?

Premier : I can on behalf of the Finance Department say that no such proposal came up.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Did the former Premier and his Parlimentary Secretary ever bring forward such a suggestion ?

Premier : I have no such information.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Why does not the Government discontinue the high special pays of high Officers with a view to increase the salaries of the peons ?

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : May I know whether Chaprasis are considered as human beings by Government ? It appears as if they are treated merely as chattel ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Has the Government ever inquired as to what are the usual expenses of an individual at Simla ?

Premier : Government does enquire from time to time.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Then, what are their expenses ?

Premier : The hon. Member should kindly give a notice for that.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Has the Government ever considered the advisibility of administering poison tablets to the families of Chaprasis as it is not possible to give them enhanced salaries ?

Premier : The suggestion would have been considered if the hon. Lady Member had placed it before the Resources and Retrenchment Committee of which she has been a member.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Did the Government ever consider the question of increasing the salaries of peons in the old regime of the hon. Premier ?

Premier : I have already said that their salaries were increased.

T. A. DRAWN BY HONOURABLE MINISTERS AND PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES.

***1139. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the amount of travelling allowances drawn by each of the hon. Ministers from 1st March 1949 to 31st August 1949 ;

(*b*) the amount of travelling allowances drawn by each of the Parliamentary Secretaries for the period mentioned above ;

(*c*) the dates on which each of the Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretaries were sworn in after 1st April 1949, respectively ;

(*d*) the total number of miles travelled by road by each of the Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretaries, respectively, during the period referred to above ;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the hon. Premier has been using Government motor car ; if so, the cost of petrol consumed per mile on this car ;

(*f*) whether having Government owned cars has proved more economical than the use of private cars of the hon. Ministers ; if so, to what extent ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(*a*), (*b*), (*c*) *and* (*d*) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(*e*) Yes. The cost of petrol consumed is approximately annas 0-3-0 per mile.

(*f*) The matter has not been examined so far.

		Amount of T. A. Rs.	a.	p.	Mileage covered	Date of swearing in.
H. Pm.	..	1,000	1	0	3654	13-4-49
H. M. F.	..	3,348	0	0	5284	21-4-49
H. M. R.	...	6,132	6	0	9199	13-4-49
H. M. I. & S.	...	4,506	4	0	6610	13-4-49
H. M. L.	...	4,473	4	0	6906	21-4-49
H. M. D.	...	4,198	12	0	6380	21-4-49
H. M. P. W.	...	4,282	3	0	6415	21-4-49
B. Bachan Singh	...	..			...	29-8-49
Shri Prabodh Chandra	...	1,564	12	0	1800	29-4-49
Prof. Sher Singh	...	708	8	0	72	8-7-49
S. Narotam Singh	...	232	12	0	560	29-4-49
Ch. Harbhaj Rrm	...	...			..	30-5-49
S. Shivsaran Singh	...	965	2	0	1267	18-5-49
Rao Mohar Singh	...	83	6	0	...	6-5-49
S. Ajit Singh	...	...			..	29-4-49

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Is the motor car given to the hon. Premier permitted for private use also ?

Premier : There are definite rules on the subject.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Could the Government owned car be used by the friends of the Premier while he was not in the car ?

Premier : Under the rules if Government car was used for that purpose, the Government had to be paid at the rate of eight annas per mile.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Is it not a fact that the motor car given to the former Premier was used for carrying his friends even to places outside the East Punjab ?

Premier : I am not in a position to say so.

Shri Virendra : Did the motor car in which the former Premier used to travel belong to Government ?

Premier : Yes, it was a Government car.

Shri Virendra : What was the monthly expenditure incurred on that car during the last six months ?

Premier : There is a separate question on that subject.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is it not a fact that more amount was spent on this car during the last six months than what used to be formerly spent in one year ?

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta : In view of financial difficulties, is the Government prepared to reduce expenditure on travelling allowance ?

Premier : This depends on work. As a great deal of work has to be done, this does not appear to be practicable.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta : Is the Government prepared to reduce the rate of travelling allowance per mile ?

Premier : It had already been reduced. On account of rise in the price of petrol as well as motor cars, it should rather be increased instead of being further decreased.

Shri Virendra : In view of the demand for reducing travelling allowance, is the Government prepared to consider the advisability of giving cycles to the Ministers, instead of their using cars ? **(Laughter.)**

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not more economical to use Government cars and Government petrol ?

Premier : This question requires to be examined. It is not only the question of consumption of petrol, motor car depreciates a good deal by constant use.

Captain Ranjit Singh : How many motor cars did the former Premier change during the last six months and what was the expenditure incurred by the Government in that connection ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : What is the criterion for fixing the rate of travelling allowance ? Is the actual expenditure incurred kept in view or is it intended to be a source of profit also ?

Premier : Travelling allowance is not intended to be a source of profit.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta : What is the harm, if instead of travelling in first class, the hon. Ministers travel in second class ?

DIRECT RECRUITMENT OF SUB-INSPECTORS OF POLICE.

***1161. Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether any Sub-Inspectors of Police were directly recruited by the Government between the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948 ; if so, the height and the chest measurement together with educational qualifications and general health of each one of them.

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

Yes. Four Sub-Inspectors of Police were directly recruited during the period from 15th August 1947 to 31th March 1948. The required particulars in respect of each of them are given below :—

S. No.	Name	Height	Chest measurement	Educational qualificatins	General Health
1.	Umrao Singh	5′-11½″	36″-38″	Upto F. A.	Excellent
2.	Didar Singh	5′-8½″	40″-42″	6th Class	do.
3.	Kishan Lal	5′-8½″	32″-34″	9th Class	do.
4.	Hans Raj	5′-10″	37″-39″	B. A., LL. B.	Good

Serial Nos. 2, 3 and 4 are ex-Army Officers ; all except No. 4 were recruited in the Provincial Armed Police.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : What is the minimum educational qualification required for recrutment of Sub-Inspectors of Police ?

Premier : The hon. Member can consult Rules on the subject.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Am I to understand that no minimum standard of education has been prescribed in the case of sons of ex-Military men ?

Premier : As I have stated, the sons of ex-Military men have been recruited.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : The hon. Premier stated that one of the persons recruited as Sub-Inspector of Police had received education up to the sixth (?) class only. May I know, how he will be able to discharge his duties of recording reports, etc. ?

Premier : He has been recruited in the Punjab Armed Police and there he will be able to do his work satisfectorily.

RENT PAID TO JAGIRDARS

***1194. Pandit Mohan Lal Datta** : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the total amount of Jagir money paid to Jagirdars so far in East Punjab in the shape of assignment of land revenue ;

(*b*) the total amount of money paid to Zamindars and Taluqdars by the Government out of its revenues ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Information is awaited from Ferozepur and Gurdaspur districts. Information relating to the remaining eleven districts is as follows :—

(*a*) Rs. 34,53,280.

(*b*) Rs. 3,27,000.

Pandit Mohan Lal Datta: Is the Government prepared to consider the question of abolition of Jagirdari and Taluqdari so that the drain on provincial ex-chequer may be reduced ?

Mr. Speaker: That is a suggestion.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is it not a fact that Jagirs were given to those persons who helped the Government during the Mutiny of 1857 ?

Premier: If the hon. Member enquires about some particular person, I shall be able to collect information.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: In the matter of granting Jagirs, is the Government pursuing the same policy which was followed before the 15th August, 1947 ?

Premier: No, it is not so.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: The hon. Premier has stated that the Government is no longer following the policy practised before 15th August, 1947. May I know what change has that policy undergone ?

Premier: No Jagirs are being granted now.

Pandit Mohan Lall Datta: Does the Government approve of a large amount being spent on Jagirdars and Taluqdars ?

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: What were those services in lieu of which these Jagirs had been granted ?

Premier: I can answer this question after looking into the matter. This much I can say that these are being no longer granted.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: Is the Government prepared to consider the withdrawal of Jagirs given to those persons who were granted these for giving false evidednce against political workers ?

Premier: The Government will consider this matter if some concrete case is brought to the notice of the Government.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: Is the Government prepared to consider the withdrawal of Jagirs given by the Unionist Government to their friends and relatives ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know if the Resources and Retrenchment Committee set up by the Government considered the advisability of abolishing Jagirs in order to effect saving in expenditure ?

Premier: The Report of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee is not yet ready.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Does not the Government realize that ending of Jagirdari will have a good effect on the financial position of the Province ?

STRICTURES AGAINST THE SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE, NARAINGARH.

*1225. **Shri Rattan Singh Tabib**: Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it has come to the notice of Government that

the Trying Court while acquitting all the accused in two excise cases in which Zamindars of Naraingarh were prosecuted recently passed strictures against the Sub-Inspector of Police, Naraingarh for falsely implicating innocent villagers in the aforesaid cases.

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government against the sub-Inspector ;

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes.

(b) No action was called for as the district authorities did not accept the finding of the Court as correct.

RESERVATION OF 15 PER CENT. SHARE OF SERVICES FOR HARIJANS.

*1242. **Chaudhri Mehr Chand :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) the measures Government have taken to implement the decision of the Services Advisory Committee of giving 15 per cent. share to Harijans in all the Departments ;

(b) whether instructions to all the Heads of Departments have since been issued that Harijans should be given 15 per cent. share in services, if not, why not ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Government have decided that pending determination of the exact percentage of Schedule Caste population in East Punjab, 15 per cent. of vacancies in all services shall be reserved for Scheduled Caste candidates, provided that suitable material for filling such appointments is available out of Schedule Caste candidates. The minimum qualifications prescribed for any post would not, however, be lowered with a view to accommodating any such candidate.

(b) Instructions to implement this decision are being issued to all Heads of Departments.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state the separate shares of Hindu Scheduled Castes and Sikh Scheduled Castes out of this fifteen per cent. representation reserved for the Scheduled Castes in the services ?

Premier : We are now abolishing such communal proportions and in these circumstances the question asked by the hon. Member does not arise.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if these communal proportions have been abolished only in the case of Scheduled Castes or that has been done in the case of all services ?

Premier : This question was answered by the former hon. Premier.

USE OF GOVERNMENT OWNED CAR BY MINISTERS.

*1261. **Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether any of the hon. Ministers had the use of Government owned car ; if so, for how long ;

(*b*) the total cost incurred on its petrol and driving, and whether any T. A. was drawn by the Minister during the period he had the use of Government owned car ;

(*c*) the total amount of travelling allowance drawn by each of the Ministers each month during the period the present Ministry has been in office ;

(*d*) whether he will be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the T. A. drawn by the Parliamentary Secretaries each month since their appointment ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(*a*) The former hon. Premier used the Transport Department's car from 30th April 1949 to 17th July 1949. Since then he is using Government car.

(*b*) (*i*) Rs. 2,450-5-3.

(*ii*) No T. A. was drawn but D. A. was drawn. He did not draw the conveyance allowance of Rs. 250 per mensem.

(*c*) and (*d*) hon. Members' attention is drawn to statement placed to-day on the Table in reply to Assembly Question No. 1139*. Monthwise figures of T. A. drawn by Parliamentary Secretaries are not available.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Will the hon. Premier please state the number of cars the Premier is allowed to have ?

Premier : He has only one car ; a jeep, of course, is also at his disposal for the conveyance of his staff.

UNION OF LABOURERS.

*1196. **Pandit Mohan Lal Datta :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the labourers at Nangal Project area have asked Government for permission to form a Labour Union of theirs to safeguard their interests ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the high Officials of the Irrigation Department oppose the formation of a Labour Union at Nangal and Bhakra Projects.

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

(*a*) and (*b*) Reply is in the negative.

The hon. Member would be interested to know that the Government has appointed a Welfare Officer to look after the interests of the labour.

PROSECUTION OF REVENUE PATWARIS IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

***1164. Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Land Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that some of the Revenue Patwaris in Amritsar District were prosecuted for having struck work in 1948, under the East Punjab Essential Services Act ; if so, the names together with their full addresses ; the sentence awarded to each one of them by the Court concerned uptil 3rd September 1949 ; the period for which each of them actually remained in the Jail after conviction ; and the result of their appeals in the Session Judges' Court ;

(*b*) whether some of the Revenue Patwaris referred to in part (*a*) above remained absconding and were declared absconders by the Courts concerned ; if so, the names of such absconders, and the date on which each of these accused were declared absconders by the Courts concerned ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that one of the absconding Patwari namely Pandit Gokal Chand was allowed to resume his duties and work at Jullundur Civil Secretariat by the Revenue Authorities of Rehabilitation, Amritsar, if so, the reasons therefor and the date on which he resumed his duties ;

(*d*) the reasons for not putting this Patwari under arrest when he had been declared absconder by the Court of law ;

(*e*) who was responsible for re-instating him without the final verdict of the Court ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

It is regretted that the information asked for by the hon. Member is not yet available. It is being collected and will be supplied as soon as it is ready.

SUPPLY OF WHEAT FOR SEED PURPOSES.

***1137. Sardar Sajjan Singh ;** Will the hon Minister for Development be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the quantity of wheat supplied in each district for seeds during the year 1949 ;

(*b*) the average coast-price per maund thereon in each district including incidental and other charges ;

(*c*) the average sale-price chaged thereon from the zamindars per maund in each district :

(*d*) the total cost incurred by the Government for the wheat supplied in each district during the year 1948 for seed purposes, separately ;

(*e*) the total sale proceeds thereof from such district during the year 1948 separately ;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

(*f*) the total amount realised in excess of the actual cost from each district, separately ?

The hon. Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa :

A statement is laid on the table.*

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state if the amount realised in excess of the actual cost will be refunded or not ?

Minister : I can give this information if the hon. Member gives notice for that.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SUPPLY OF CANAL WATER TO ALL THE BRANCHES OF UPPER BARI DOAB CANAL

***1402. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether the Government decided that canal water will be supplied in all the branches of the Uppar Bari Doab Canal uptil 15th October 1949 ;

(*b*) whether any complaints were submitted to the canal authorities of Majitha and Jandiala Divisions at Amritsar regarding the shortage and non-supply of canal water outlets at the tail of many canal minors irrigating village lands of Patti Tahsil particularly village Thathi Jaimal Singh, village Sur Singh, village Sabhrai, Jand Mahneke Harike, Boop, Baler and Farandi Pur, but no arrangements were made by the canal authorities for the supply of water outlets at the tail ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(*c*) whether the zamindars of village Sur Singh sent a representation to the Executive Engineer, Majitha Division on 5th October 1949 intimating that owing to the failure of the canal authorities to supply water their standing crops of paddy and maize have been totally damaged and ruined, and that they will stop taking canal water as a protest after 13th October 1949 ; if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter ;

(*d*) whether the Government is aware of the fact that no canal water could reach the outlets at the tail of village Thathi Jaimal Singh, Sur Singh, and Sabhrai village of Patti Tahsil during the last 5 weeks ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(*e*) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for the adequate supply of canal water outlets at the tail of the canal minors of Upper Bari Doab Canal in future particularly during the rotation period when there will be shortage of water in the river during winter ?

---

*Kept in the Library.

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

(*a*) No.

(*b*) Complaints were received of and on from the villages noted and were investigated. Some of the complaints were baseless and others were based on the supposition that supplies during September should be as good as in summer months. This is not possible as the river has gone down to 3000 cusecs only against 7000 cusecs against full supply discharge required. Tail supplies were checked by officers at site and their discharges were found correct in full supply turns of these channels.

(*c*) No such representation has been received.

(*d*) The canal water reached the outlets at the tails of the channels which irrigate these villages during their full supply turns.

(*e*) During rotational periods the channels are run by rotation and in their turns the full supply discharge reaches their tails.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : The hon. Minister has stated that the total area under command of the outlet at Jagatpura minor village is 1307 acres while only 390 acres were irrigated for Kharif 1949. In view of this information, how can the Government say that they have received no complaints ?

Premier : I am not aware of any complaints. I can, however, look into the matter if notice is given.

REGISTRATION OF UNREGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

***1406. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the question of regitration for the unregistered medical practitioners in Allopathy and Homeopathy is under consideration of the Government ; if so, how long will it take to materialise ? (*Vide Appendix for Answers.*)

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if the unregistered medical practitioners will be allowed to carry on their practice even before the submitting of the report ?

Premier : They are carryiug on their practice. But they cannot prescribe poisonous drugs given in the schedule.

DEBATE UNDER RULE 12 (b).

Mr. Speaker Thakur Dalip Singh has given notice of his intention to raise a debate on the subject matter of the answers to starred question Nos. 1207 and 1208 put to day. This matter can be discussed under Rule 12 (b) but before the House can discuss it the hon. Member must have the leave of the House to raise the debate.

Premier : (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : Sir, I submit that the hon. Member should have indicated in what respect he thinks the replies to be unsatisfactory. Unless that is done I

[Premier]

do not think discussion should be allowed to be raised. Without knowing the details how can I know as to what for the extra time is required ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Sir. Is it for the hon. Speaker to give a ruling or can the Leader of the House also give a ruling ?

Mr. Speaker : He is not giving a ruling. The question is not of the unsatisfactory nature of the reply but it is the question of the urgency of the matter. Rule 12 (b) lays down :—

> "On notice given at question time, a period not exceeding half an hour after the hour of interruption or after the conclusion of the business on the list for the day, whichever is ealier, may be allowed to a member to raise a debate on any matter of urgent importance which has been the subjetc of a question on that day, but no votes shall be taken on such debate :
>
> Provided that the Speaker before allowing such a debate to be raised shall informally ascertain by voices whether the member has the leave of the Assembly for the purpose, and if the Speaker declares thereupon that leave is refused the debate shall not be raised "

May I know if the hon. Member has the leave of the House ?

The Leave was refused.

ADJOURNMENT.

Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindustani*): Sir. I move—

That the Assembly at its rising to-day shall stand adjourned to Monday, the 24th October 1949, at 2 p.m.

Premier : The business on hand is to be transacted during this session. Some of it is yet to be got ready for placing it before the House. It has been suggested that all legislation should be finished. Twentieth is a non-offical day, then there are Diwali and other holidays. So we shall be meeting for the purpose on 24th October.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Assembly at its rising to-day shall stand adjourned to Monday, 24th October 1949, at 2 p.m.

The Motion was carried.

EVACUEE PROPERTY (ADMINISTRATION) BILL.

Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : Sir, I introduce the East Punjab Evacuee Property (Administration) Bill.

Premier (*Hindustani*) : I move—

That the East Punjab Evacuee Property (Administration) Bill to be taken into consideration at once.

Sir on the suggestion of the Government of India the East Punjab Evacue. (Administration of Property) Act 1947 was repealed and Ordinance IX of 1949 was enacted in its place. Now this Ordinance is going to lapse. In the absence of any legislation the Administration of Evacuees Property will be difficult. So this Bill is being introduced with this object in view.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Evacuee Property (Administration) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly) representing Lyallpur and Jhang, General (Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, the East Punjab Evacuees Act is an important measure. It affects not merely those refugees who have settled in the Province of East Punjab, but also all the refugees whose number exceeds forty lakhs. It concerns all those refugees who left their all in West Punjab. The object of this Bill is to see how far help can be extended to them. About three months back the Govt. of India enacted an enabling Act. On the basis of that Act an Ordinance was issued. We have been keenly waiting for its enforcement. But due to wirepulling and influences from various directions, it has not so far been enforced. It is our right to demand positive and prompt measures. Hindu and Sikh refugees who have come to East Punjab from West Punjab have left behind property worth sixteen hundred crores of rupees, while the property left behind by evacuee Muslims is not worth more than three hundred crores of rupees. The difference of twelve or thirteen hundred crores of rupees is a substantial amount. This is the greatest problem that is a constant source of worry not only to the refugees but to the whole of the country. It is on account of this very problem that the relations between India and Pakistan are daily deteriorating. Our efforts should be directed towards this end that the definition of the word 'Evacuee' should include all those Muslims whether in India or in Pakistan, who have been allotted any evacuee property in Pakistan. They should not be allowed to retain any property rights in India. In certain quarters efforts are being made to re-settle Muslims in certain parts of East Punjab. I quite appreciate the sentiments expressed by those who favour such a course of action, but we cannot lose sight of hard facts of the problem. It is a well-known fact that so far we have been unable to rehabilitate the Hindu and Sikh refugees properly. It would be nothing short of foolishness if we try to bring back Muslims to such Districts as Ludhiana, Gurgaon and Ambala. It would only mean depriving the Hindu and Sikh refugees of their due rights. There may be certain members who would like to re-settle the Muslims in their constituencies. But I must say that so long as Hindu and Sikh refugees are not properly rehabilitated, so long as Pakistan does not pay the difference between the values of evacuee properties left on either side, we cannot and should not think of such schemes. It has come to my knowledge that in the District of Rohtak a Zamindar who went to West Punjab is going to get back about six hundred acres of his land in village Gohana. In this Province many of the refugees are yet without land. We urge upon the Government to take a strong stand in this matter. In East Punjab proper arrangements for those who have come from Pakistan have not so far been made. This is because we have not

[Shri Dev Raj Sethi]

been strict and because Pakistan has always been evasive. Karachi Agreement was reached and the question of urban property was settled. Refugees were allowed to get compensation. Private exchange of property was also allowed. But in spite of all the arrangements and agreements arrived at, in practice things were so manipulated that all efforts at exchange and sale of property failed. In West Punjab some Hindu shops in Anarkali, (Lahore), were sealed. Such other steps were taken which, in fact, amounted to compelling the Hindus and Sikhs to leave Pakistan. They are not allowed to have property there. The matter does not stop here. The Pakistan Government have even banned the Hindus and Sikhs to remove their movable property including jewellery in gold and silver kept in the banks. This is the treatment which is being meted out to Hindus and Sikhs in Pakistan. But what is the state of affairs on this side ? I admit that we should be idealists but there is a limit to everything. Even the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, gave his advice to the effect that barring the question of abducted women, in which we must be very considerate we should treat Pakistan in every matter on reciprocal basis. If we do not pay heed to the advice of Mahatama Gandhi, then our magnanimity towards Pakistan would be misplaced and misconstrued as our weekness. We know ours is a Secular State. But this does not mean that refugees should be allowed to live as discontented citizens of India. I am of the opinion that so long as the refugee problem is not solved to the entire satisfaction of the displaced people, India and Pakistan can never be on good terms and happy relations cannot subsist between them. Consequently peace on both sides would ever remain in danger of being disturbed. I would, therefore, request the Central Government, through you, Sir, to act strongly in this matter.

Then, Sir, only recently when the Prime Minister of India visited this Province, some of our friends including some members of this legislature suggested rather persuaded him to settle 50 thousand Muslims in the District of Ludhiana. I want to convey to the Government of India that if this suggestion is accepted it would be very unfair to the refugees. I would say that even settling of five Muslims from Pakistan in this country would tantamount to depriving the refugees of their legitimate right of being rehabilitated. The refugees are not at all prepared to tolerate such resettling of Muslims in any case. But I may also make it clear that we are no longer against those Muslims who consider India as their homeland and are patriotic and loyal to the core towards it. We want them to have equal rights with us. But we cannot allow those Muslims, who have divided loyalties, to be re-settled in India. I would, therefore, request the Government of India not to dilute or tone down any law which it contemplates to enforce in regard to evacuee property. We want the Government to define the terms 'evacuee' and 'evacuee property' lucidly, definitely and unambiguously. We earnestly feel that if Pakistan tightens its laws pertaining to evacuees, the Government of India should do so in reciprocity. For the present I would confine my remarks to the general discussion of the principles underlying this Bill and would participate in

detailed discussion when it is considered clause by clause. I, therefore, close my speech with the request to the Government that while enacting this Bill into law, it should do full justice to the refugees and see that their rights are duly protected.

Sardar Sajjan Singh (Patti Sikh Rural) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Speaker, I have listened to the speech of my hon Friend Shri Dev Raj Sethi with rapt attention. I have arrived at the conclusion that according to him the Bill under consideration should contain a definition of the words 'loyalty' and 'disloyalty'. I may tell him that this is a matter which should be entirely left to the Government to decide whether loyalty of a certain person is unquestionable or doubtful. He may rest assured that the law of the land is sufficiently strong to take adequate and effective action against a person considered to be having divided loyalties to the country, and, therefore, my hon. Friend need have no apprehensions on this account. But may I ask him to tell the House as to what his feelings are about the black-marketers ? Does he consider them as the loyal citizens of India ? Are they to be dubbed as the patriots of the country ? Then there is another point also which cannot be lost sight of. It is not writ large on the face of a person whether he is loyal or otherwise to the country. I, therefore, reiterate that it is the business of the Government to prove loyalty or treachery of a person and for that purpose it is fully fortified. It has in its armoury certain laws with which it can effectively deal with persons of doubtful loyalty. As a matter of fact it should be clearly laid down by law that every Indian, irrespective of his being a Hindu, Sikh or a Muslim, would be allowed to enjoy equal rights of citizenship and in this matter the question of loyalty or disloyalty does not arise

In this connection I want to bring to the notice of the Government another important matter and that is this. A Zamindar of our district embraced Islam 20 years ago but his sons did not follow suit. They refused conversion. They continued as Sikhs and married into Sikh families. But after partition of the Punjab, their father left for Pakistan. Now after the exit of that gentleman, the Custodian of Evacuee Properties has declared his property also as an evacuee property, with the result that his action has hit hard the sons of that man. They are full fledged Sikhs and are living in Indian territory. They have been unfairly deprived of their ancestral property simply because their father professed Islam and had left for Pakistan. They are in a fix what to do. They displeased their father by refusing to enter into the fold of Islam and did not accompany him. They are loyal citizens of India and yet their ancestral property has been taken away from them and it is being treated as evacuee property. Now the difficulty is that the Officers draw their own inferences from law and put interpretations which suit their purpose. I would request the Government to take drastic action against such Officers who wrongly interpret law and harass the people unnecessarily. I would also suggest to the Government to amend law pertaining to evacuee property, etc., that if a persons' father or grandfather embraced Islam and left for Pakistan, but he himself did not become a Musslman, his ancestral property should not be declared as an evacuee property and he should not be deprived of the same.

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

I have already brought facts regarding this matter to the notice of the Government I hope it will lose no time in taking suitable action in the matter, and will thus administer justice to that agrieved Zamindar. He now enquires whether if his property is not to be restored to him, then he should accept Islam and leave for Pakistan. Since it is our duty to safeguard the rights of people, I hope Government will give its careful and sympathetic consideration to this matter. With these words I close my remarks.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I rise to make a few observations in regard to the Bill now before the House. Before I proceed with my speech I wish to say a few words in reply to certain remarks made

3 p.m.

by my hon. Friend Shri Dev Raj Sethi. He has stated in the course of his speech, that the hon. Prime Minister, while he was touring the District of Ludhiana, was told by some people in general and some M. L. A's in particular that about 50,000 Muslims, who wanted to return to India from Pakistan, should be settled there. But I wish to point out that I accompanied the hon. Prime Minister throughout his tour in the District, and I can say on my personal knowledge that what the hon. Member has said is a white lie, if I am permitted to use this word and if it is not unparliamentary.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member had better use some other word as this is unparliamentary. He can use the word 'wrong' in place of this unparliamentary word.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Then I can say that his statement is mischievous.

Mr. Speaker : This word is again unparliamentary and I would ask the hon. Member to withdraw it.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is this an unparliamentary word ?

Mr. Speaker : Of course it is.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Well, Sir, I withdraw this word and say that the statement of the hon. Member is not good-intentioned. What I wish to submit is this that I made this point clear during the hon. Prime Minister's tour and I repeat it without any fear of contradiction that the Government of India would have to clarify their policy so far as this important matter is concerned. If the Central Government fail to act accordingly then they cannot claim themselves to be the true followers of the Father of our Nation. They would thus be abusing the very fair name of the Father of the Nation, the apostle of truth and our beloved leader Mahatma Gandhi. We wanted the hon. Prime Minister to throw some light on the point whether those Muslims who are already living in the Indian Union and who did not think it advisable to migrate to Pakistan and have thus made India, their homeland, would be treated with justice and in the same way as the other citizens of our country, and would also be permitted

to continue owning their property. I for one am of the opinion that the unwillingness on the part of the Central Government in giving adequate protection to those Muslims who are already living in the Indian Union and who are the true citizens of this country, tantamounts to grave injustice to humanity and such a Government has no right to exist. Our Government is helpless in giving adequate protection to Muslims and they have sold themselves to capitalists whom they cannot afford to displease. Every citizen of a country is within his rights to demand adequate protection from the Government. It is very regrettable that such statements against giving any adequate protection should emanate from no less a responsible person than my hon. Friend. I suggest that Shri Dev Raj Sethi and others who are of his views should think twice before carrying on such propaganda. We believe in the Secular State and it is also an open secret that we live in the Secular State. Let those who are at the helm of affairs and who claim to run the administration of this Secular State declare in unequivocal terms that they are helpless and that they have failed in carving out a true Secular State. But in spite of all these short comings Secular State has already been established and would be established on more firm grounds than before.

Now about the Bill itself. My hon. Friends know full well the conditions under which our country was partitioned and I do not feel the necessity of going into its details. After the formation of the two Governments, with the mutual consent of the two major political parties, people suffered heavily. There is no denying the fact that these two political parties were mainly responsible for the sad happenings after the partition of the country. If the two political parties or in other words the two Governments had realized their responsibilities and had also kept in view the faith and sincerity of the people towards them, I am sure the problem of evacuee property and other such allied problems would not have cropped up at all. After the partition conditions grew so worse that most of the people were helpless and they did not know what to do and where to go. It is really no use to brood over the past. But as a realist I must say that even at present Government is duty-bound to look to the interests of those muslims who are already living here and those who have returned from Pakistan. I think it was not so difficult a problem to be solved as it is said to be. If both the Governments had arrived at some amicable settlement after holding a conference even at Ambala, then the conditions created by the mass migration which according to Mahatma Gandhi was a "satanic act" would not have existed at all. If the people of East Punjab in general and other responsible persons in particular had kept this point in view that by getting quotas on the names of refugees..............

Mr. Speaker : It is not relevant. I have already allowed the hon. Member to wander about. The hon. Member should confine himself to the definition of the term "evacuee property."

Mehta Ranbir Singh : What I wish to submit is this that those Muslims who have already migrated to Pakistan and who have themselves agreed to become the citizens of that Dominion, have no right to return to this country. In the same way those Hindus who

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

were left in Pakistan and who have now in the interests of their business or for some other personal gains become the citizens of Pakistan, have no right to return to country.

Premier (the hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, I have just now received this information that the Government of India is soon going to promulgate an Ordinance on Evacuee Property. I would, therefore, request you that the consideration of the Bill now before the House, be postponed till the 24th October 1949. If an Ordinance is promulgated by the Central Government on the subject, we may not perhaps feel any necessity to move this Bill.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : I would request the hon. Premior that after the hon. Member who is on his legs, has finished his speech, opportunity may be given to other hon. Members to speak on the Bill now before the house.

Shri Virendra : On a point of Information, Sir, I want to know whether before the Central Government promulgates an Ordinance on the subject, the opinion of this House, if made available, can prove more helpful to them.

Premier : Government has already received this opinion.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Since I have not completed my speech on the Bill now before the House, I request that I should be given a chance to continue my speech if and when this Bill is again brought before the House. I hope, Sir, you will give me a chance to speak on the Bill and thus enable me to complete my speech.

Mr. Speaker : Is it the sense of the House that the further discussion on the East Punjab Evacuee Property (Administration) Bill be postponed ?

The House Assented.

Mr. Speaker : The Bill will be taken into consideration on the 24th October, 1949.

GENERAL SALES TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : I introduce the East Punjab General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill.

Premier : I move—

1. That the East Punjab General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill be referred to a select Committee consisting of—

Shri Behari Lal Chanana.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma.

Seth Sudarshan.

Sardar Ujjal Singh.

Mehta Ranbir Singh.

Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha.

Sardar Inder Singh.

Shri Bhagwan Dass.

Master Gurbanta Singh.

Chaudhri Badlu Ram.

Sardar Narotam Singh.

2. That the quorum of the Select Committee shall be 5.

3. That the Select Committee be directed to submit its report by the 23rd October, 1949.

The Motion was carried.

PUNJAB SMALL TOWNS (EAST PUNJAB SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL.

Minister for Labour (The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad) : I introduce the Punjab Small Towns (East Punjab Second Amendment) Bill.

Minister for Labour : I move—

That the Punjab Small Towns (East Punjab Second Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now take up the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSES 2 TO 5.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 2 to 5 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Labour : I move—

That the Punjab Small Towns (East Punjab Second Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

DRUGS (CONTROL) BILL.

Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : I introduce the East Punjab Drugs (Control) Bill.

Premier (*Hindustani*) : I move—

That the East Punjab Drugs (Control) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sir, as you are aware, an Ordinance embodying the provisions of this Bill had to be promulgated on 5th October, even when the

[Premier]

notice of the Assembly Session had been received. This became necessary owing to the devaluation of the rupee and the consequent sharp rise in the prices of drugs, most of which are imported from abroad. In view of this development, it is necessary that the Government should have powers to control the sale, supply and distribution of drugs. This very Ordinance is now before the House in the form of a Bill.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Drugs (Control) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker: The Bill will now be considered clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1.

Sub-clause (2).

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That sub-clause (2) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 2 TO 20.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That clauses 2 to 20 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1.

Sub-clause (1).

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Premier: I move—

That the East Punjab Drugs (Control) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

CHILDREN BILL.

Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava): I present the report of the Select Committee on the East Punjab Children Bill.

Premier (*Hindustani*): I move—

That the East Punjab Children Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

Sir, in almost all Provinces there is a provision of law for youthful offenders. In the Education Conference held in New Delhi some-

time back great stress was laid on the need of building character of children and on the prevention of offences committed by them. At present there is only one certified institution, *i. e.*, Reformatory School in our Province and the other is a Borstal Institution which is being used as a Jail. It is intended that instead of directing youthful offenders to be detained in Jail, they should be committed to suitable custody and their conduct reformed by suitable methods. I feel that so long as Non-Official Societies are not formed we cannot succeed in our object. This Bill has been introduced for the custody and protection of children so that they may be brought up with due care and supervision. Before partition this Bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly of the United Punjab, but it could not be passed there. The Select Committee has devoted considerable time in scrutinising this Bill and has made valuable suggestions. The Bill may, therefore, be passed so that its provisions may be enforced in the Province as early as possible.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Children Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The Bill will now be taken up clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1.

Sub-clauses (2) and (3).

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That Sub-clauses (2) and (3) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 2 TO 75.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 2 to 75 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1.

Sub-clause (1).

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Premier : I move—

That the East Punjab Children Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (EAST PUNJAB AMENDMENT) BILL.

Premier : I introduce the Code of Criminal Procedure (East Punjab Amendment) Bill.

Premier : I move—

That the Code of Criminal Procedure (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The Bill will now be taken up clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-clause (2)

Mr. Speaker : Question is —

That sub-clause (2) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 2 AND 3.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-clause (1)

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill

The motion was carried.

Premier : I move—

That the Code of Criminal Procedure (East Punjab Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER CORPS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Premier : I intorduce the East Punjab National Volunteer Corps (Amendment) Bill.

Premier : I move—

That the East Punjab National Volunteer Corps (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The Bill will now be taken up clause by clause.

CLAUSES 2 TO 4

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Premier : I move—

That the East Punjab National Volunteer Corps (Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p. m. on Monday, 24th October 1949.

EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

24th OCTOBER 1949.

Vol. IV — No. 7.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

CONTENTS

Monday, 24th October 1949.

PRINTED AT THE : SANATAN DHARAM PRESS, GHORA CHOWKI, SIMLA.

PRICE Rs. 3/12/-

East Punjab Legislative Assembly

Fourth Session of the 1st East Punjab Legislative Assembly.

Monday, 24th October 1949.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 2 p. m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

APPOINTMENTS OF OFFICERS IN THE PROPOSED CAMP JAILS IN THE PROVINCE.

*1120. **Thakur Dalip Singh.** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :-

(a) whether any more Camp Jails are going to be opened in the Province,

(b) whether the officers for these new jails will be appointed by promotion from the present Cadre or otherwise?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) There is at present no such proposal before the Government.

(b) Question does not arise.

Thakur Dalip Singh : Is it a fact that even now some re-employed superannuated persons are working as Superintendents of Jails?

Premier : This does not arise out of the original question.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is the hon. Premier aware that generarlly speaking, there is a great congestion in the Jails of this Province ?

Mr. Speaker: I think there is a separate question on this subject.

MURDERS AND DACOITIES.

***1246. Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:--

(a) the number of murders, dacoities, burglaries and other crime registered in each of the districts of East Punjab during the year 1948;

(b) the number of the cases traced in each district during the year 1948 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) and (b):- A statement is laid on the table ‡

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Is the hon. Premier aware of the fact that in the year 1948, in district Amritsar, there were 180 cases of murders, 83 cases of dacoities, and 1821 cases of burgalaries while the number of traced cases respectively was 368 and 251 only ? If so, what steps does the Government propose to take to reduce this frightfully large number of untraced cases?

Premier: Government makes every possible effort to trace all such cases but in spite of that, some cases remain untraced.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Can the Government by its best efforts achieve this very result, which is bespoken by these facts and figures ?

Mr. Speaker: Disallowed.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Has the Government tried to know the causes of increasing number of untraced cases in almost every district?

Premier: I think this may be attributed to the abnormal conditions prevailing in the Province durings the year 1948. As the Province is returning to normal, the crime is on the decrease.

Sardar Sajjan Singh:- May I know why a large majority of cases remained untraced in district Amritsar, in particular?

Premier: Co-operation of the public was lacking.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Is it not due to the inefficiency of the district officers?

Premier: I have already stated the reason.

---

‡ kept in the Library

ACCOMMODATION FOR UNDER-TRIAL PRISONERS.

*1247. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

[a] Whether the Government is aware of the fact that owing to the overcrowding in the District Jail, Amritsar the Jail authorities refuse to take in the undertrail prisoners sent up by the courts, as a result of which they have to be taken to police lock ups;

[b] whether the Government is aware of the fact that a sufficient number of the police staff of the police station, Amritsar remain engaged on the Hawalat and in bringing such accused to courts;

[c] whether the Government is aware of the fact that as a result of the engagements of the police staff in the manner mentioned in part [b] above,patrolling, nakabandi and other duties by the police greatly suffer;

[d] if the answers to parts [a] to [c] above be in the affirmative, the steps that Government proposes to take to provide accommodation for undertrail prisoners now confined in police lock ups and whether Government proposes to build a temporary jail in Amritsar or to expand the present jail, if not, the reasons therefor?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

[a] No,except on one occasion when as a result of admission of a very large number of R. S. S. prisoners the population of the jail shot up to 863 against its authorised accommodation for 284, and it was not possible to make immediate arrangements for their transfer to another jail.

[b] Yes.

(c) Patrolling and Nakabandies are not being neglected but if some police could be spared from Hawalat duties, it would strenghthen the staff engaged on patrolling and Nakabandi.

[d] The question of extending the existing District Jail Amritsar is under the consideration of Government but a proposal to construct a camp Jail at Amritsar was given up owing to its prohibitive cost.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Is it not a fact that it was stated on behalf of the Government in the last Budget Session that the question of extension of District Jail, Amritsar, was under consideration ?

Premier: I require notice for replying to this question.

GAZETTE NOTIFICATIONS REGARDING GAZETTED OFFICERS.

*1248. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will be hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

S. Sajjan Singh

(a) whether it is a fact that the gazette Notifications of appointments, transfers, leave etc. of Gazetted Officers appear in the Gazette after inordinate delay, if so, the reason therefor;

(b) what action does Government propose to take in the matter?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) No. If the hon. Member can bring to my notice specific instances I shall be delighted to have the matter examined.

(b) Does not arise.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Is the hon. Premier aware of the fact that though Sardar Sant Parkash Singh was appointed as Inspector-General of police with effect from 15th August, 1947. the notification in regard to his appointment was published in the Gazette dated the 5th August 1949 ?

Premier: I thank the hon. Member for the information.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member can verify all these facts from the documents published by the Government.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: I wanted to bring it to the notice of the Government that it took two years for a notification to appear in the Gazette.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Is it not a fact that appointments are generally notified in the Gazette long after they have been made ?

Premier: It is a matter of opinion, Sir.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : If I bring all the facts in connection with this delay to the notice of the Government, will our Government take any action against the persons responsible for that delay?

Premier: The matter will be enquired into.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY MINISTERS, PARLIMENTARY SECRETARIES AND PRIVATE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES.

*1249. **Sardar Sajjan Singh**: Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :-

[a] the travelling allowance drawn by each of the hon. Ministers every month from 1st April 1949 to 31st August 1949,

[b] the total travelling allowance drawn by each of the Private Parlimentary Secretaries from 15th August 1947 to 31st August 1949 separately during the period they remained as such ?

[c] the total travelling allowance drawn by each of the Parlimentary Secretaries from 15th August 1947 to 31st August 1949 separately during the period they remained as such?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

[a] A statement is laid on the table of the House.

[b] & [c] Hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer given to Starred Assembly Question No. 688 on 18th March 1949 and to Starred Assembly Question No. 1139 on 8th October 49.

		Rs.
[a] **Hon. Premier**	April	
	May 1949.	618-4-0
	June 1949	119-12-0
	July 1949	262-1-0
	August 1949.	...
Hon. Minister for Finance.	April 1949	...
	May	1205-10-0
	15th June to 19th June.	405-10-0
	25th June to 7th August.	1006-12-0
	18th August to 3rd September,	930-0-0
Hon. Minister for Revenue.	12,4.49 to 3.5.49.	626-4-0
	May	1254-10-0
	June to 2nd July 1949.	1680-4-0
	July 1949	1558-2-0
	August 1949	851-1-0
Hon. Minister for Public Works.	April 1949	667-8-0
	May 1949	608-12-0
	June 1949	778-6-0
	July 1949	737-12-0
	August 1949	851-1-0
Hon. Minister for Industries & Supplies.	April 1949	880-0-0
	May 1949	1022-8-0
	June 1949	791-14-0
	July 1949	805-10-0
	August	1006-4-0
Hon. Minister for Labour.	April 1949.	587-8-0
	May 1949	1021-14-0
	June 1949	...
	July 1949	800-0-0
	August 1949	1440-12-0
Hon. Minister for Development.	April) May)	1008-2-0
	June 1949	679-6-0
	July 1949	1361-12-0
	August1949	1147-8-0

COMMUNIST DETENUS IN YOLE CAMP.

*1250. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) Whether it is a fact that communist detenus in the Yole Camp and other jails of the East Punjab have gone on clothing strike and have refused to wear clothing supplied by jail Dapartment ; if so, the number of such strikers in each jail on 12-9-49.

(b) since when they have gone on clothing strike ;

(c) whether any representation was sent by them to the Government regarding their demands and grievances before resorting to clothing strike ; if so, a copy of the same be placed on the table.

(d) whether the representation was considered by the Government, if so, with what result ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) 1st Part. Only those who are confined in the Central Jail, Ambala and the District Jails at Rohtak and Ludhiana.
2nd Part. A statement containing the required information is laid on the table.‡

(b) The required information is given in the statement referred to in the reply to part (a) ‡

[c] Yes. Copies of the representations received from the communist detenus confined in the Central Jail Ambala and District Jails at Rohtak and Ludhiana are placed on the table. ‡

[d] Government have considered these representations and have granted many additional concessions to detenus. A list showing the concessions granted after the receipt of the representations is laid on the table. ‡

Sardar Sajjan Singh : What concessions were granted ?

Premier : The required statement is laid on the table.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : I have not got a copy of the statement.

Mr. Speaker : I understand that a copy was supplied to the hon. Member and the office has got his acknowledgement.

EXECUTION OF S. CHANAN SINGH

*1251. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

[a] Whether it is a fact that S. Chanan Singh s/o S. Ball Singh of village Boor Chand, Police Station Bhikhi Wind, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar was awarded capital punishment and was executed for the political activities along with other patriots in 1914-15;

[b] whether it is a fact that the property including land of the aforsaid patriot was forfeited to the Government under orders of the convicting court ;

‡ Kept in the Library

[c] whether it is a fact that S. Baghel Singh the 2nd brother of the aforesaid S. Chanan Singh was awarded life Sentence for political activities along with other patriots in 1914-15;

[d] whether it is a fact that aforesaid S.Baghel Singh was released from Jail after undergoing 18 years rigorous imprisonment

[e] if the answer to part [b] above be in the affirmative the area and kind of the land forfeited;

[f] whether it is a fact that S. Baghel Singh applied to the Government for the restoration of his brother's property forfeited to the Government in the year 1948 or 1949;

[g] whether it is a fact that S. Kala Singh son of S. Sarmukh Singh of village Jagatpura. Tehsil Taran Taran. District Amritsar was also awarded capital punishment and was executed along with aforesaid S. Chanan Singh in 1914-15 for his political activities and his property including land forfeited;

[h] the area mortgage and non-mortgage kind of the land forfeited;

[i] whether it is a fact that the real nephew of S. Kala Singh also applied for the restoration of the forfeited property of his uncle;

(j) whether Government is aware that the forfeited lands belonging to S. Chanan Singh and Kala Singh were inherited by them from their fathers and were ancestral qua their brothers and nephews;

[k] whether it is a fact that the aforesaid S. Baghel Singh and the nephew of S. Kala Singh have been informed by the Government that forfeited lands cannot be restored to them if so, the reasons for the same;

(l) in how many other similar cases the relatives of deceased patriots have been refused the restoration of the forfeited properties ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.

It is regretted that the answer to the question is not ready. The information is being collected and shall be supplied as soon as it is ready.

RESOURCES AND RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE.

*1304. **Shrimati Sita Devi :** will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

[a] whether he has so far received the recommendations of the Resources and Retrenchment Committ ee;

[b] how long he is going to take to act on those recommendations ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.

[a] No, final report of the Committee has not reached me

[b] does not arise.

Shrimati Sita Devi: May I know if the recommendations of the Committee will be kept in view, while preparing the Budget for the next year to be presented in March next ?

Premier: When the Report of the Committee reaches the Government, the matter will be decided as to which of the recommendations are to be incorporated in the Budget.

Shrimati Sita Devi: I want to know whether the Government will take its report into consideration immediately or whether it will remain lying unread for some months in various offices ?

Premier: I cannot reply to this question until the report is received.

ELECTION PETITIONS

*1306. **Shrimati Sita Devi:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

(a) the number of election petitions yet pending with the Election Petitions Tribunal;

(b) the amount of public money spent in disposing of the election petitions of the Muslims against Muslim Members of the Assembly who have migrated to Pakistan;

(c) whether it is intended to put an end to the proceedings in such petitions as are mentioned in part (b) above involving unnecessary labour and expense to the Exchequer ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) One.

(b) No separate account of such petitions has been kept.

(c) All the Muslim petitions having already been disposed of, the question does not arise.

PLACES OF WORSHIP IN EAST PUNJAB

*1307. **Shrimati Sita Devi:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it has come to his notice that quite a large number of places of worship in the province are being misused for political propoganda, for preaching communalism and to promote communal hatred among different communities;

(b) whether Government proposes to take any action to stop this mischief ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) Reports to this effect were received from one district only.

(b) Necessary instructions were issued by Government.

Shrimati Sita Devi: If a report to this effect has been received from any district, is the Government satisfied that such a propaganda has never been made and what action the Government proposes to take in this behalf ?

Premier: No such report has been received from any district but the Government has taken proper action inorder to stop such propaganda.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Is the Government aware of the fact that such propaganda is being made by means of loud speakers ?

Premier: The Government has issued instructions to the press to refrain from doing any such propaganda which may tend to promote communal hatred among different communities.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know what action Government has taken to stop it ?

Premier: Such action which it considered necessary.

Shrimati Sita Devi: May I know whether Government purposes to issue such instructions that in furture loud speakers should not be installed at such places ?

Premier: If the hon. lady Member gives notice of such question, Government will consider the matter.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know why Government should feel hesitant to declare what action it has taken in this matter ?

Mr. Speaker: It is a question of opinion.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: The hon. Premier has stated that the Government has taken such action which it considered necessary; may I know what is the nature of that action ?

Premier: If the hon. Member gives notice, he will get a reply.

DECLARATION OF CARD GAMES WITH STAKES AS ILLEGAL

***1314. Shri Virendra:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether the Government have seen a report published in the Press dated September, 24, 1949 that the Bombay Government have declared Card Games with stakes illegal, if so, does the Government purpose to take any measures to stop card games with stakes in this Province ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

Part 1. Yes.

Part II. Government will examine the suggestion.

CANAL WATER AND ELECTRICITY CHARGES FROM WEST PUNJAB

*1315. **Shri Virendra** : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state the amount which the East Punjab Government receives annually from the West Punjab Government for the Canal water and the Electric Power, supplied by the East Punjab to the West Punjab ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

1. East Punjab Government receives approximately Rs. 32 lacs per annum from the West Punjab Government for the Canal water supplied by the East Punjab to the West Punjab.

2. The Electricity Branch received Rs. 21,80,500/- from the West Punjab Government for supply of power during 1948-49. The receipts during the current year [1949-50] are expected to be above 25 lacs although the load has decreased. The increase in revenue is due to the rate for supply of power having been increased from six to nine pies per unit.

Shri Virendra: May I know if the Government is prepared to revise the rates keeping in view the currency dispute between the Indian Government and Pakistan Government ?

Premier: Perhaps the hon. Member is hinting at the issue of devaluation of rupee. That question is being examined.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: May I know how much amount in outstanding in this account ?

Premier: I require notice for collecting this information.

REPRESENTATION OF SCHEDULED CLASSES IN GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

*1322. **Mehta Ranbir Singh**: Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has reserved a quota for the scheduled classes including backward classes amongst the Sikhs in the province for recruitment to Government services ;

(b) the total number of Gazetted posts filled up during the last year together with the number of those belonging to scheduled classes appointed so far ;

(c) whether suitable Harijan candidates were available for being nominated as Extra Assistant Commissioners, if so, why they were not nominated ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) Government have decided that pending the determination of the exact percentage of Scheduled Castes population in East Punjab, 15 per cent of the vacancies in all services will be reserved for candidates from scheduled castes as defined in the Draft Constitution of India.

(b) 203. No such post was filled by any one belonging to Scheduled Castes.

(c) No. There was only one Harijan candidate available. Government, therefore, asked for the nomination rolls of Scheduled Castes candidates from Heads of Departments for filling up one vacancy on Register II of the Provincial Civil Service earmarked for such candidates, and a selection will be made shortly.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know if this system will come into force now or when the new constitution starts functioning ?

Premier: Instructions have been issued.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know if any quota will be reserved for the scheduled classes in the matter of recruitment to Government services in the new constitution ?

Premier: Instructions will be issued.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is it a fact that suitable scheduled class candidates were available but the Government did not make recruitment out of them ?

Premier: May I know the period for which the hon. Member wants to get information ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh: The hon. Premier has stated in his reply that not a single Harijan has been accepted. May I presume that Government does not intend to adhere to the principle of reservation for scheduled classes ?

Premier: I wish the hon. Member had listened to my reply. The figures that I have given relate to the period when 15 per cent posts were not reserved for the scheduled classes. The Government has taken this decision only recently.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know if this decision to reserve 15 per cent posts for scheduled classes will come into force this year or when the new constitution starts functioning ?

Premier: The question of new constitution does not arise. The provision has been made in the new constitution. The deficiency in the recruitment of scheduled classes has been made up.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Does the Government intened to follow the old block system in the matter of recruitment ?

Premier: Yes.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: May I know when the Government took its decision to reserve 15 per cent of posts for the scheduled classes?

Premier: I do not exactly remember the date. The Government took this decision only recently.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: May I know if it has been decided by a Minister or the whole cabinet or it is only based on mere presumption ?

Premier: It does not make any difference whether it is decided by the Minister incharge or the Cabinet. It is a decision of the Government.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh: May I know how the Government proposes to make up the deficiency in the quota of scheduled class in face of the overwhelming majority of Hindus and Sikhs ?

Premier: The recruitment will now be made in accordance with the recent decision of the Government.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh: In face of the fact that only one post out of 25 has been filled up by a Harijan, may I know what steps the Government proposes to take to make up this deficiency by giving them some concessions ?

Premier: When there is reservation for any class of people, the Government has to adhere to the Block system and now the recruitment is being made according to that system.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh: May I know whether the existing deficiency will be made up now ?

Premier: I have already replied to this question.

REQUISITION OF HOUSE OCCUPIED BY CH. RANBIR SINGH, MEMBER, CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, AT ROHTAK.

*1325, **Shri Dev Raj Sethi:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that Ch. Ranbir Singh, Member Constituent Assembly has represented to the Government through the Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak, against the requisitioning of house No. B III 409, Ude Bhawan, Civil Lines, Rohtak, which had been taken on rent by him;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Deputy Superintendent, Civil Veterinary, for whom the above house has been requisitioned, is already occupying another requisitioned house in Rohtak;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there are several new houses available in the New Township at Rohtak for accommodating such officers;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Government has issued instructions to the District authorities to requisition minimum number of houses to avoid inconvenience and hardship to the general public;

(e) if the answers to parts (a), (b), (c) and (d) above be in the affirmative, what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the matter referred to in part (a) above ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.

(a) Yes. Ch. Ranbir Singh Member, Constituent Assembly, submitted a representation to the D.C. Rohtak on the 6th October, 1949 and that representation is under consideration.

(b) Yes. The house was at first requisitioned for the Deputy Superintendent, Veterinary, but the order was subsequently modified and that house now stands allotted to the Revenue Assistant, Rehabilitation .

(c) There are about 10 units lying vacant in the new township at Rohtak which can be made available for Govt. Officers but a unit in the township does not suit the Deputy Superintendent, Veterinary.

(d) Yes.

(e) A report from the Deputy Commissioner is being called and the matter will be looked into when that report has been received.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: Did the Government at the time of requisitioning pay any heed to the fact that the offices of the Harijan Sewak Sangh and the District Congress Committee were located in this house ?

Premier: The Deputy Commissioner has been asked to report and the matter is under consideration.

APPOINTMENT OF MAGISTRATES.

*1326. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

(a) the number of retired Magistrates re-employed before and after the last budget session of the Assembly;

(b) the number of such Magistrates as were taken directly without consulting the Public Service Commission during the period referred to above;

(c) the number of Magistrates referred to in parts (a) and (b) above taken after the last budget session, and the number of those discharged;

(d) whether the Government have under consideration the proposal to recruit nationalist - minded and successful lawyers as permanent Magistrates ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.

(a) 22.

(b) 3. It is not necessary to consult the Commission when re-employing retired P. C. S. Officers as Magistrates.

(c) 3 officers were re-employed as Special Magistrates after the last budget session and one, re-employed earlier, was discharged.

(d) Government are considering the question of retaining in Government service on a permanent basis a few of the Lawyer Magistrates, at present employed as temporary Extra Assistant Commissioners.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Are the retired Magistrates medically examined at the time of re-employment?

Premier: Government re-employs only such people who are fit for work.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: How can the Government know that without a medical examination?

Premier: No medical tests are necessary for temporary hands.

Shrimati Sita Devi: What qualifications are necessary for a person's re-employment?

Premier: Government re-employs such persons who are suitable for the work.

Shrimati Sita Devi: How is that suitability ascertained?

Premier: The Government knows how to do that.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Why should re-employment be refused to any people seeking it as all of them must have rendered good work-during the period of regular service and are therefore properly qualified ?

Premier: We have never refused re-employment to efficient people.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: What procedure is followed in the re-employment of Magistrates ?

Premier: The Secretary in charge recommends the cases and they have to be approved by the Minister in charge.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: Has the hon. Premier been advised by the Advisory committee that the services of the re-employed magistrates be terminated?

Premier: I want notice for this question.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Are the appointments made at the sweet will of the Minister-in-charge or by a Board?

Premier: The Government makes the appointments.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is the Minister-in-charge competent to make the appointments in his own discretion or he has to do so after consulting a Board?

Premier: The Government makes these appointments as it thinks fit.

AWARDS FOR GALLANTRY TO POLICE OFFICERS.

*1327. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:–

(a) the number and the names of such Gazetted Police officers as have been granted the Indian Police Medal or other gallantry awards since the Partition;

(b) the number of Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police respectively who got such awards;

(c) the number of constables and head constables who got the Indian Police Medals or other gallantry awards;

(d) whether the Government is aware of any cases in which the awards were made to higher officers while the acts of bravery were performed by constables;

(e)whether in future Government propose to take also public views into considration while granting Medals and awards?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) Two. (1) R. S. Chuni Lal Malhotra, Superintendent of Police and (2) S. Puran Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Police. Both were awarded Indian Police Medals.

(b) Five. (1) Inspector Ishar Dass Barto, K. P. Medal (2) S I. Kesar Singh, K. P Medal, (3) S. I. Kalwant Rai, K. P. Medal and (4) officating A. S. I. Shugan Singh, I. P. Medal,

(c) Four. (1) H. C. Mohd Ishaq, (2) H. C. Pritam Singh, (3) H C. Nasib Singh and (4) F. C. Narinjian Singh. All of them were awarded Indian Police Medals.

(d) No.

(e) This is not practicable as public men who are in a position to express views are not with the police at the opportune time and their opinion will not, therefore, be based on personal knowledge.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Is it a fact that the D. S. P. who has been rewarded is working at Hissar and that he has got the reward for killing a notorious dacoit?

Premier: I want notice to answer this question.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that a D. S. P. of Hissar has been rewarded for bravery whereas in fact two sepoys were responsible for killing the notorious dacoit called Shambhu?

Premier : I thank the hon. Member for the information supplied.

CRIME IN THE PROVINCE.

*1328. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :

(a) the state of crime in the Province before and after the last budget session;

(b) the steps taken by the Government, if any, during the last six months to check the increase in serious crimes in the Province and the result thereof;

(c) the change, if any, that has come about in crimes of political and social nature after the last budget session;

(d) what steps, if any, the Government have taken to counteract the Communists and other communal subversive activities in the Province and the result thereof ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) The total volume of all reported crime has been on the increase in the Province after the budget session. The major portion of this increase was, however, in cases under the Arms Act and the Excise Act and was due to greater police activity. The increase in crime against property is mostly due to the economic distress among refugees. Violent crime, including dacoities and robberies, has, however, shown a decrease compared with the period immediately before the budget session.

(b) Patrolling and other preventive action have been tightened up in all districts of East Punjab. Joint staff was formed in collaboration with the Pepsu Police to deal with violent crime by culprits, who operated both in Pepsu and East Panjab with bases on either side. This joint action has resulted in the liquidation of some dangerous gangs. Close and energetic action is being maintained to stop the formation of new gangs.

(c) There has been practically no change in crime of political and social nature after the last budget session. There is little doubt that persons subscribing to a particular kind of political ideology have been getting more inclined to the use of violence. Special action had to be taken by the Government against some members of this class and a close watch is being maintained on their activities in order to prevent them from doing any mischief.

(d) The Government are keeping a close watch on the subversive and other activities of communalists and communists in the

province and are taking suitable measures to combat them. It will, however, not be in public interest to disclose the details of measures which are being adopted by Government in this connection.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Has there been any noticeable change in the activities of the R. S. S. ever since this organization gave an undertaking to the central Government ?

Premier: I want notice.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Is a watch being kept on the activities of members of the R. S. S. like those of the communists and, the communalists and if so with what effect?

Premier: My hon. Friend wants a definite answer and for that I want notice.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Is there any change in the activities of the communists ?

Premier: I am not prepared to make a definite statement at this time.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Is it only due to the activities of the communists and the communalists that the work has increased ?

Premier: The answer that I have read shows that there are other reasons as well.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Is it not due to starvation and unemployment ?

Mr. Speaker: This is only an expression of opinion.

FAMILY ALLOWANCE TO POLITICAL DETENUS AND PRISONERS.

***1329. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :-

[a] The number of petitions from political detenus and prisoners received for family allowances ;

[b] The number of petitions examined and the number of cases where family allowances have been granted together with the basis thereof ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

[a] 217 from political detenus.

[b] First part, 182.
Second part, 38.
Third part, Rs. 25/- per adult woman dependent and Rs. 20/- per minor dependent. These scales are further subject to a twenty per cent increase per capita for dependents living in urban areas.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know the criterion adopted by the Government while accepting some applications and rejecting others ?

Premier: If some specific instance is brought to my notice I shall be able to answer with respect to it.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Some applications for family allowance were accepted while others were rejected by the Government. May I know the principles governing their decision ?

Premier: I shall be able to answer this question if the notice is given but the hon. Member who dealt with the subject as Parliamentary Secretary, should know better about it.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: It is not a fact that in about one hundred and fifty cases applications for family allowance were rejected ?

Premier: Thanks for the information.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Is the hon. Premier convinced that the allowances which have been given are sufficient ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra: What facts does the Governmet take into consideration while fixing the amount of familyallowance ?

Premier: I require notice for answering that question.

Thakur Dalip Singh: Are the families for which allowance has been sanctioned, being actually paid the amount?

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is the amount of allowance fixed for the families of detenus final or is it liable to further revision?

Premier: It is final for the present.

Mehta Ranbir Singh Is the Government prepared to review the amount of family allowance in view of the rising cost of living?

Premier As I have submitted, the decision made by the Government is final for the present.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know the duration of 'for the present' after which the Government will review the matter in view of the rise in the cost of living index?

Sardar Partap Singh: Has the cost-of-living index, referred to by the hon. Member, gone up during the last four days only?

ARREST AND RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.

***1330. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma**: Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:–

[a] the number of communists and communalists arrested for their subversive activities after the last budget session of the Assembly;

[b] the number of political detenus and prisoners released during the period ;

[c] whether the Government is aware of any cases in which political workers were detained on false police reports actuated by personal enemities; if so, what action, if any, has been taken in the matter?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

[a] Number of communists arrested from the 6th April, 1949 to 10th October, 1949: 153.

Number of communalists arrested during the above period: 58.

Total: 211.

[b] Number of political detenus released during the same period--563.

Number of political prisoners released from jail during the same period-992.

[c] No.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is it not a fact that the Government has appointed a Judicial Committee to review the cases of these prisoners?

Premier. Sir, the question does not arise out of the reply given.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Sir, I only wanted to know whether the Government had appointed a committee to review the cases of these detenus and whether the committee was an advisory one?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Sir, he knows that there is a committee.

Mr. Speaker: There is no question as to the advisory committee.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Sir, I am sorry. It is a Judicial Committee and not an advisory committee.

Premier: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on the floor of the House.

VICTIMIZATION OF CONGRESS WORKERS BY PUBLIC SERVANTS.

***1331. Pandit Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state what action has been taken by the Government against such public servants as have victimised and ridiculed the Congress Workers openly?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: Only one case came to the notice of Government in which a public servant used words derogatory to esteemed congress leaders. His increment was withheld for a period of six months

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Has it come to the notice of the hon. Premier that in the course of private talk or in clubs, a large number of Government servants ridicule the Congress workers and victimise them ?

Premier: So far as my information goes, it is not so. Instead of my coming to know about these things during the last four days, the ex-Premier who was in office for about six months could have known better.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: It is not a fact that recently there has been a tendency among majority of Government servants to talk about the Congress in highly disparaging terms ?

Premier : I am not aware of any such things.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the hon. Premier aware of the fact that generally the services have an anti-Congress attitude ?

RESTORATION OF CONFISCATED PROPERTIES.

*1338 **Chaudhri Kartar Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

(a) the names of those persons whose properties were confiscated during the political movements under British rule have been restored to them so far;

(b) whether it is a fact that the properties of Ujagar Singh of Dhamia Klan, District Hoshiarpur and Ram Singh of Sohnagra, Tehsil Garhshankar, District Hoshiarpur and Labh Singh alias Santokh Singh of Klott, Police Station Anandpur Sahib, District Hoshiarpur have not been restored to them so far, if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) Bhai Sahib Randhir Singh of Narangwal, District Ludhiana.

(b) Yes. The claim of S. Ram Singh of Sohnagra has been referred to the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur, for verification as no evidence in regard to the confiscation of his property is available in the Civil Secretariat. Final orders will be passed on receipt of the Deputy Commissioner's report.

No claims for the restoration of confiscated properties have been received from S. Ujagar Singh of Dhamia Klan and S. Labh Singh alias Santokh Singh of K

Shri Prabodh Chandra: How much time has elapsed since the announcement made by the Government that the properties of Congress workers confiscated by the previous Government for their political activities would be returned ?

Premier : I require notice for answering this question. I cannot reply it off hand. The supplementary question does not fall within the scope of the answer given.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: In how many cases have the confiscated properties of political prisoners been returned ?

Mr. Speaker: Your question has been answered in part (a) of the reply.

REPRESENTATION OF HARIJANS IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

*1339 **Chaudhri Sundar Singh:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the members of the scheduled castes have very poor representation in Police Department of East Punjab;

(b) the percentage fixed for the members of scheduled castes in the cadres of the Indian Police Service, Superintendent of Police, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Sub-Inspector, Assistant Sub-Inspector, and Head Constable in the Department of Police of East Punjab;

(c) what steps, if any, does the Government propose to take to make up the deficiency of the Scheduled castes in the Police Department ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Government have decided that the Scheduled castes should be given representation in the services according to their population. Pending the determination of their exact share, 15% vacancies in all services, including police service, will be ear-marked for Scheduled Caste candidates, provided suitable material for filling such appointments is available out of Scheduled caste candidates. Minimum qualifications prescribed for any post will not be lowered with a view to accommodating any Scheduled caste candidate.

REPRESENTATION OF MEMBERS OF THE SCHEDULED CASTES IN VARIOUS SERVICES.

*1345. **Chaudhri Sundar Singh:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

[Ch. Sundar Singh]

[a] the number of vacancies in the Cadre of the P. C. S. Executive which are going to be filled up this year;

[b] the percentage of the members of the Scheduled castes amongst the posts of Extra Assistant Commissioner, Tehsildar, and Naib Tehsildar likely to be filled up this year;

[c] the percentage of the members of the Scheduled Castes in all the East Punjab Government Offices in the Cadres of Junior Clerks, Senior Clerks, Assistants and Superintendents as well as, Gazetted Officers;

[d] whether it is a fact that the representation of the Harijans is very poor in the services referred to in parts [a] , [b] and [c] above;

[e] what action, if any, does the Government propose to take to increase the percentage of the Scheduled castes in these services?

The hon. Dr Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) The number of vacancies which will be filled up during 1949-50 is being worked out and will be announced later.

(b) 15 per cent, provided suitable material for filling up appointments is available out of the Scheduled Castes candidates.

(c) to (e) The time and labour involved in collection of the information from all offices under the East Punjab Government, will not be commensurate with the value of the information asked for. The percentage of members of the Scheduled Castes in most of the offices is not adequate as Harijans were not assigned before a definite share of posts in the services. Now that Government have taken a decision to reserve 15 per cent of the posts for Harijans, provided suitable candidates are available, their representation will increase in due course.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know, Sir, if it is the Premier who is the judge to decide whether the information asked for by the members will be commensurate with the labour involved in its collection ?

Mr. Speaker: It is the Government that is to decide this. It can even keep silent.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I may say for the information of the hon. Member that Premier is a part of the Government.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh: What is the definition of the word suitability ?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should consult a dictionary.

RESTORATION OF HARIJAN WOMEN ABDUCTED BY HIGH CASTE HINDUS AND SIKHS.

*1346. **Chaudhri Sundar Singh:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of cases of abduction of Harijan women reported at the police stations in which it is alleged that the women have been abducted by the high caste Hindus and Sikhs in the district of Gurdaspur after the partition of the province;

(b) the number of such women restored back to their guardians ;

(c) what steps, if any, does the Government intend to take for the restoration of the rest of the Harijan abducted women ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: (a) Five cases were registered, in which six Harijan women were concerned.

(b) .... 6.

(c) .... Does not arise.

MURDERS IN GURDASPUR DISTRICT.

*1347. **Chaudhri Sundar Singh:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that S. Buta Singh, a Sikh Jat, was murdered at Ghazi Nangal in the police station of Dera Baba Nanak about ten months back ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Shri Charan Dass, a young Harijan of village Uddhowali was murdered on or about the 15th August 1949, when the deceased had gone to see a fair at village Ghazi Nangal ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Police authorities of Dera Baba Nanak have so far failed to trace out the murderers in both the cases referred to in parts (a) and (b) above ;

(d) if the answer to (c) above be in the affirmative, what measures, if any, does the Government propose to take to trace out the murderers in both the cases and put an end to this lawlessness prevailing in the border locality ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) No. Buta Singh along with two others committed a burglary in the "haveli" of Ram Parkash, a Brahmin of village Ghazi Nangal and removed two cattle, on which case F.I.R. No. 65, dated 17-4-48, u.s. 457 I.P.C., P. S. Dera Baba Nanak was registered. The owners chased the culprits and succeeded in capturing Buta Singh after inflicting injuries on him. Buta Singh succumbed to his injuries in Civil Hospital, Amritsar, about a week later.

(b) Yes.

(c) Regarding part (a) the question of arresting the alleged murderers does not arise. As regards (b) the case is still under investigation. Charan Dass, the deceased, was not having cordial relations with his wife, Bibi Harbanso, and his father-in-law tried to get a dissolution of the marriage, to which the deceased was not agreeable. On 16-8-49 the deceased left his village to see a wrestling match at Ghazi Nangal. There is evidence to the effect that he remained in this village up to 6-30 p. m. visiting various relatives other than his father-in-law. Thereafter Charan Dass was not seen alive and his dead body was recovered from a stream. The D. S. P. Gurdaspur personally supervised the investigation of the case at the spot for 3 days. Suspicion lay on the father-in-law of the deceased, who was arrested and thoroughly interrogated, but nothing useful could be elicited.

(d) Every effort is being made to trace the murderers of Charan Dass. The crime on the border of Dera Baba Nanak is well under control and there is no lawlessness prevailing in the locality.

GRIEVANCES OF RFFUGEE STUDENTS AT JULLUNDUR.

*1303. **Shrimati Sita Devi** : Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether he received a deputation of the citizens at Jullundur on July 27 or 28, 1949 about the grievances of refugee students at Jullundur praying that the Headmasters of various schools at Jullundur be asked to stop charging tuition fees from the refugee students and praying further that the Education Department be pressed to meet the growing demand of refugee scholars for admission to schools at Jullundur ; if so, what action has been taken by the Government thereon ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Yes. Necessary instructions were issued to all concerned pressing upon them that payment of fees by refugee students should not be insisted upon before the grants recommended for such students were actually received from the Department and they were further requested to ensure that no institution contravened these instructions in future.

With regard to the growing demands of refugee students for admission to schools at Jullundur, instructions were issued last year regarding the introduction of double shift system and the institutions were asked to submit their schemes, if any, to the Department for approval. It was mentioned therein that Government would give them

financial assistance, but none of the institutions at Jullundur, has, so far, come farward with any scheme. If however, any of these institution would care to apply for the same, Government would be prepared to consider such a request most sympathetically.

Shrimati Sita Devi : The hon. Premier has stated that the Government has sanctioned grants and loans for the displaced students. But even one year after this sanction the students are not given those grants and loans. The result is that the head-masters of the schools at Jullundur are charging full fees from these students. Is it not a fact that the students are thus being put to a great hardshisp ?

POST-WAR DEVLOPMENT SCHEMES

*1313. **Shri Virendra:** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the Government have decided to drop any Post-War Devolpment Schemes to effect economy in the governmental expenditure ; if so, what are those schemes and how much saving will result by dropping these schemes ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

The entire expenditure on Post War Schemes approved by the Central Government is at present met out of the grant allocated by the Central Government, for the Central Government waived the condition of rupee to rupee ratio for the years 1948-49 and 1949-50 in the expenditure on Post War Schemes in this Province. The Government of India have now reduced the grant of Rs. 150 lakhs originally allocated to East Punjab to Rs. 137 lakhs and a saving of Rs. 13 lakhs will thus accrue to that Government.

2· The reduced allotments were communicated to Departments concerned on the 27th September, 1948, who have been requested to revise their schemes so as to bring expenditure within the revised amount Each hon. Minister has been left free to determine the relative priority of departmental schemes, and information as to which schemes will be dropped with a view to bring the estimated expenditure within the revised monetary limits, is not available at this stage. In fact it is too early to expect this information just yet.

PROHIBITION IN THE ROHTAK DISTRICT.

*1319. **Mehta Ranbir Singh**: Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state:-

(a) the total amount of expenditure involved so far in enforcing prohibition in the Rohtak District;

(b) the total number of convictions made in the district for violation of the prohibition rules ;

(c) which districts are going to be declared as dry areas next and when ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) Rs. 70, 912/8/3, for the period from the 2nd October 1948, to 31st August, 1949.

(b) 103 persons were convicted during the period 2nd October, 1948, to the 30th September, 1949:

(c) No decision has yet been taken in this matter.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know whether any Government servant has also been convicted for violation of the Prohibition rules or they have been exempted from the application of these rules ?

Premier: I don't think, they are exempted.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is it a fact that the Government has not prosecuted even a single Government servant so far, for violation of Prohibition rules.

Premier: I require notice for this question. It is not proper to draw any inferences in the absence of information.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know if the Government ascertains before hand that the persons who are posted on the Prohibition work are teetotallers ?

Premier: It is hoped that such officials work under the Prohibition rules.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know if the Government has verified as to how many Government servants in the Rohtak District actually do not drink ?

Premier: Had there been any such officials, they must have been arrested.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is it a fact that Government officials know that they are exempted from the application of the Prohibition rules ?

Premier: This is not a fact. It is a baseless insinuation.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it the opinion of the Government that no Government servants in the Rohtak District drink ?

SANSKRIT IN THE PROVINCE.

*1320. **Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state :—

(a) whether Government has come to a decision to popularise Sanskrit in the Province, if so, what steps have been taken during the last one year to achieve this end ;

(b) the action taken or proposed to be taken on the 28 demands put forth by the Sanskrit Vidyala Parishad, Khanna in a memorandum sent to the Government in May 1949 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) The Syndicate of the East Punjab University has appointed a Committee to revise the whole question with a view to promoting the study of Sanskrit and to submit their report to the Syndicate.

(b) The demands put forth by the Sanskrit Vidyala Parishad Khanna, in their memorandum dated May 19, 1949, will be considered by the above mentioned Committee.

As regards item No. 5 of the memorandum demanding that Shastris should have the same rights as registered graduates of the East Punjab University, the University has decided that this request cannot be acceded to under the East Punjab University Act.

As regards item 7 that Shastris should enjoy equal privileges for appointment as Superintendents and Supervisers in University examinations, the Syndicate has decided there is no bar to Shastris being appointed as such to the University examinations.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know if the Government, apart from the University, has appointed any Committee to devise ways and means for the progress of Sanskrit language ?

Premier : The Government has not so far appointed any Committee for this purpose.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know if the Government proposes to take such a step ?

Premier : If the hon. Member sends a suggestion, the Government will favourably consider it.

EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED NEW CAPITAL.

***1321. Mehta Ranbir Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(a) the amount spent so far by the Government on the staff and other establishment employed in connection with the proposed capital near Chandigarh ;

(b) the details of the building and other material lying near the site of the proposed capital, together with the cost incurred thereon ;

(c) the way in which the Government propose to utilise this material?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Rs. 68,340.

(b) A list of material lying near Chandigarh is given in Appendix 'A'.

(c) It is proposed to use these materials on the schemes of "Grow More Food" and Rehabilitation, if they are not required for Capital.

APPENDIX "A"

Details of the building and other materials lying near Chandigarh

Serial No.	Description of Material	Weight	Vol.	Cost
		T. Cwt.		
1	Cement ...	483 1	...	44,736
2	Slack Coal ...	3951 17	...	1,18,560
3	Steel ...	769 3	C. ft.	4,04,862
4	Timber ...	...	520	3,759
5	Miscellaneous expenditure	...	...	18,505
6	Public Health Materials	...	...	1,73,318
	Total ...			7,63,740

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know since when this material has been lying there ?

Premier : I can reply to this question if notice is given.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know if this material is spare with the Government or there is any other scheme for its disposal ?

Premier : There are schemes under consideration of the Government for this purpose.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : How is it that this material is still lying unused at the site ?

Premier : It is so, because of the indecision regarding the location of the Capital.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Has the Government any scheme to give that material to the refugees ?

Premier : If found necessary, such a step will be taken.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Does not the Government consider it necessary for the rehabilitation of refugees ?

Mr. Speaker : This is an insinuation.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : For how long will the Government continue to collect material without deciding where the capital is to be located ?

Premier : The material is collected by and by.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the Government still sticks to its decision about the location of the capital in view of the refusal of the Central Government to give any financial aid for this purpose ?

Premier : This question has already been replied to in the present session.

ENLARGEMENT OF MINORS AT MUSA AND JAGATPURA IN MAJITHA DIVISION

*1359. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth** : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased be state :--

(a) whether temporary canal outlets were constructed this year to make the grow more food campaign a success at Musa Canal Minor and Jagatpura Canal Minor, Majitha Division of Amritsar District without enlarging the head of the aforesaid minors ;

(b) whether the Government is aware that the construction of these outlets adversely affected outlets at the tail and the standing crops at the tail villages were damaged for scarcity of water ;

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the reasons for not enlarging the heads ;

(d) the steps Government proposes to take to avoid the repetition of this mistake ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Yes, but these channels were run in excess of their authorised discharges.

(b) The construction of the temporary shoots has not affected the tails of these channels adversely, since extra supply was put in these channels at their heads.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it a fact that the residents of villages Musa and Jagatpura gave a notice to the Government on 6th October in this connection ?

Premier : I require notice for this.

LABOUR UNION IN THE PROVINCE.

***1317. Mehta Ranbir Singh**: Will the hon. Minister for Labour be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of Labour Unions that have been affiliated with the Indian National Trade Union Congress during the last one year and the total number on the rolls thereof ;

(b) the total number of conflicts that arose between the Mill-owners and the Labour Unions in the Province during the last one year and the action taken by the Government thereon ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad: (a) There is little information officially available so f r, as the particulars required to be furnished by the Labour Unions under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, do not cover ' affiliation ', and there was no separate field staff during the last year which could obtain the information by contact. It is suggested that this information can be obtained from the office of the Indian National Trade Union Congress.

(b) There arose twenty-four conflicts between the Mill-owners and the Labour Unions during the year ending the 31st August, 1949 Government took action in the following two cases which were more important :—

(i) A lock-out was declared by the iron and Steel Manufacturers of Batala as a protest against the mal-distribution of iron and steel quotas. The lock out lasted from the 20th June, 1949, to the 29th June, 1949. The labourers demanded wages for the period of lock-out, and a twelve-man committee, consisting of equal number of the representatives of Labour, manufacturers and local Congress Organisation was constituted to bring about a settlement.

(ii) The second case relates to a long-standing dispute between the Motor Transport Companies running between Simla and Kalka, and the Simla Hills Transport Workers' Union. On agreement of both the parties, the then Labour Officer was appointed the arbitrator who gave his award in March, 1949. The award was to be in force for six months, i.e., January to June, 30, 1949. Towards the termination of the period of award, the Transport Companies gave a notice to the Government that due to their poor financial position, the Companies could no more abide by the terms of the award and intended revision of the grades of pay etc., of their staff. The Workers' Union gave a notice of strike. The strike, threatened to take place on the 28th July, 1949 was averted at the intervention of the Labour Commissioner and an agreement on all points of dispute was arrived at.

SCHEME FOR INSURANCE AGAINST SICKNESS OF FACTORY WORKERS

*1318. **Mehta Ranbir Singh**: Will the hon. Minister for Labour be pleased to state whether the Government has under consideration any scheme for insurance against Sickness of Factory Workers in the Province, if so, when it is likely to mature ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad: Yes. The scheme for insurance against sickness, etc., of Factory Workers to be established in this Province is under active consideration of the Government. It is not possible to anticipate a date when the scheme is likely to mature.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know the details of the scheme which hon. Minister has referred to in his reply ?

Minister: When they are received from the Government of India, the details can be made available to the hon. Member.

NOMINATION OF A HARIJAN TO MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, MOGA

*1371. **Sardar Rattan Singh Gill**: Will the hon. Minister for Labour be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that representations have been made by Harijans to the Government and its Officers that the person nominated as a Harijan member of the Municipal Committee Moga, by the Commissioner, Jullundur Division is in fact not a Harijan ;

(b) the particular caste and the religion to which this person belongs ;

(c) if the person concerned does not belong to one of the scheduled castes, who is responsible for this mistake in the nomination of this person ;

(d) the action Government proposes to take in the matter?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad: (a) Yes.

(b) A Mazhabi Sikh is a member of the backward classes.

(c) The question does not arise.

(d) No action is required.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is it a fact that the member nominated to the Municipal Committee, Moga, is not in fact a Harijan ; if so, was the nomination done on political consideration ?

Mr. Speaker: First part is all right ; second part need not be replied.

Minister : It has not come to the notice of the Government.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that on 22nd August 17 persons sent registered representations to the Government in this connection ?

Premier : Thank you for the information.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that Sardar Rattan Singh M. L. A., Moga, also moved the Government in this matter ?

Premier : Thanks for the information.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the Government let the House know whether it is a fact that such a nomination has been made ?

(*Premier and Minister for Labour. both rose to give the reply.*)

Shri Prabodh Chandra : One at a time please ?

Premier : You are not to say that.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I am asking for the above information.

Premier : I have no knowledge.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Premier may consult and then let us know.

Premier : This question does not arise.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : It does arise, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : I know that Government can keep silent if it does not want to reply to a certain question. In cases where Government does not give a reply I am rather inclined to give some concession to the hon. Members in asking supplementary question so that they may be able to get some information.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, it is always for the Chair to decide whether a question arises out of the answer given or not.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : When was this nomination made ?

Minister : I don't remember the exact date. But this was made not very long ago.

WHOLE-SALE CLOTH DEALERS IN KANGRA DISTRICT.

***1121. Thakur Dalip Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Industries be pleased to state :-

(a) Whether it is a fact that the whole-sale cloth business has been given only to dealers of Amritsar;

(b) Whether it is a fact that the whole-sale cloth dealers of Kangra district have been entirely ignored in this behalf if so, the reasons thereof ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

(a) No.

(b) No. The quota of the cloth for Kangra District is being lifted by a Syndicate comprising the refugee whole-salers of the districts of Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Kangra. The only one local whole-saler was given the option to join the Syndicate is reported not to have exercised it.

DEPOT HOLDERS

***1305. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Minister for Industries be pleased to state:-

(a) the names of those persons holding cloth depots, grain depots and kerosene oil depots simultaneously at present in the province ;

(b) whether it is intended to revise the list of such depot holders as are holding more than one depot at a time in the province ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad:

Government regret that it has not heen possible to collect the information asked for by the hon. Member. The information when collected, will be forwarded to her for her information.

STEEL AND IRON SCANDAL CASES

***1312 Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Industries be pleased to state the names and designation of the Government servants who have been dismissed or suspended following enquiry in the steel and iron scandal cases so far in the province ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to starred question No. 1175 on 17th October, 1949

QUASI PERMANENT ALLOTMENT OF LANDS.

***1308. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :-

(a) whether he has read the press comment about the way Quasi-permanent allotment of lands is being made at Jullundur ;

(b) whether any favour has been shown to a particular community in the matter of allotment of lands, if not, whether it is intended to take action against those making baseless allegation against the officials concerned ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes.

(b) No. No specific instances requiring action against a newspaper have been considered.

WORK CENTERS

***1316. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :-

(a) the number of Work Centres opened by the Relief and Rehabilitation Department in the province so far;

(b) the places where those centres have been opened;

(c) the number of persons receiving training or working in these centres at present;

(d) the monthly expenditure incurred by the Government in running these centres;

(e) the monthly income, if any, from these centres?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) None so far. These are being organised.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Do

(d) Do

(e) Do

QUASI-PERMANENT ALLOTMENT OF LANDS.

***1357. Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Minister for land Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :-

(a) the basic principles set up by the Government regarding the allottment of lands on quasi-premanent basis;

(b) whether the colonists are to be allotted lands in their original villages and if the lands are not available there in the neighbourhood of their original villages and so on;

(c) which of the two, colonists who has not been allotted land temporarily in his original village or a non-colonist refugee who has been allotted the same kind of land left by him in Pakistan, temporarily in the original village of a colonist which is within the area of allocation of the non colonist refugee is to be given preference at the time of quasi-permanent allotment of lands;

(d) what is the minimum area of lands fixed by the Government for the overflow of colonist or non-colonist refugees who are to be allotted lands in each Tehsil of Amritsar district during the quasi-permanent allottment?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) The main principles for the allotment of land to displaced persons in the quasi-premanent scheme are:-

(1) Land is allotted only to those who abandoned Land.

(2) Allotments are made subject to a scheme of graded land.

(3) Colonists from East Punjab districts settled in their districts of origin or in areas earmarked for receiving overflow from their districts, Colonists from West Punjab districts are reckoned with the district of their origin in West Punjab, but if they have temporary allotments in accordance with the colony district allocation and desire to remain with their colony district, they are allotted land accordingly.

(4) Displaced persons who have expressed a wish to settle in their present village of temporary allotment are allowed to remain there, if they are otherwise qualified, but persons who wish to move or have to move or have not already taken temporary allotments are settled, as far as possible with the people of their villages in West Punjab.

(b) Allotments of East Punjab colonists already settled according to their grade in their areas of allocation are not disturbed on the ground that colonists belonging to a particular village must have preference in the allotment of evacuee land situated in it. But to this rule there are two exceptions.

(1) A temporary allottee belonging to a village has preference over other allottees not belonging to that village even if he has a larger holding than theirs. and

(2) By a rule approved on the 10 September, with a view to facilitating the resettlement of serving soldeirs or others in service outside the Province, without up-setting work already done, Resettlement Officers have been allowed discretion to give preference to colonists in their village even if they do not hold temporary allotment.

(Premier)

(c) The position has been stated in answer to (b).

(d) The allocation of Amritsar district is as follows:

(FIGURES IN STANDARD ACRES)

Lahore	Ajnala	12000	(Tehsil Lahore)
	Patti	28233	(Tahsil Kasur 25233)
			(Tahsil Lahore 3000)
Sialkot	Ajnala	10000	(Inferior grades)
Own colonists		113148	
		163381	

overflow of Amritsar Colonists 93172

Distribution:–

Jullundur	54000
Hoshiarpur	8000
Hissar (Sirsa)	2000
Ferozepur	29172
	93172

QUASI PERMANENT ALLOTEMENT OF LANDS.

***1358· Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue, be pleased to state:—

(a) the area of allocation for Kasur tehsil in the district of Amritsar ;

(b) the grades in which the village lands of Vharyals, Garnala, Bhaggupura, Ahmedpura and Valtoha of tehsil Patti district Amritsar have put for the Quasi-permanent allotment by the Government ;

(c) the grades in which village lands of Lulliana, Orara, Matta Baddarpur, Vehgal, Chathianwala, Daftu,, Rai, Sirhali Kalan Gaddoke, Bedian and Raja Jang of tehsil Kasur, district Lahore (Pakistan) and tehsils of Lyallpur and Montgomery have been put for the quasi-permanent allotment of lands by the Government;

(d) Whether it was decided that the refugee land owners who were alloted same kinds of lands left by them in Pakistan temporarily in the area of their allocation will not be disturbed during quasi-permant allotment of land;

(e) whether allottes who were allotteed lands temporarily in the villages mentioned in part (b) above have been disturbed though they were allotted same kind of land left by them in Pakistan within the area of their allocation and new persons who were not alloted land temporarily in the villages in part (b) above have been allotted land, if so, the reason for the same ;

(f) the steps Government proposes to take to remedy the wrong;

(g) whether Sardar Sajjan Singh M. L. A., submitted anv report vide his letter No. 1598, dated 1-10-49 to the Director General Rehabilitation, Jullundur regarding the irregularities, violation of Government instructions and announcements in connection with the quasi-permanent allotment of land in Patti tehsil, district Amritsar;

(h) the date when the afforsaid report was received in his office;

(i) if the answer to part (e) and part (f) be in the affirmative, whether any enquiry was made in the matter; if so with what results?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bharagva:

(a) The area is 25,233 acres (standard).

(b) These villages have been placed in grade I.

(c) These villages have been placed in grade I except village Gaddoke which has been placed in grade II. The Lyallpur and Montgomery Tehsils are in grade I.

(d) Yes.

(e) Some were disturbed but these villages are being reviewed.

(f) Does not arise;

(g) Yes.

(h) Is immaterial.

(i) The villages are being reviewed.

DISCONTINUATION OF SUPPLY OF RATION IN REFUGEE CAMPS.

***1392. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib:** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue, be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the ration of some of the inmates of Karnal and Kurukshetra Camps has been discontinued; if so, the number of such inmates, the date or dates on which the ration was discontinued and the reasons therefor;

(b) the total population of each of the refugee camps and the number of the Rajput refugees in each of these camps;

(c) the numbers respectively of Rajput refugees in each of these camps who were landholders in the West Punjab and those who did not possess any land:

[Shri Rattan Singh Tabib]

(d) the number of Rajput refugee landholders in each of these camps who have been allotted lands on a quasi-permanent basis?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bharagva:

(a) Free rations of able-bodied employable displaced persons in all East Punjab camps, including Karnal camp, have been stopped in accordance with our Ration Restriction and Employment scheme which has been in force since June, 1948.

Kurukshetra camp is now under the administrative control of the Government of India. The ration Restriction and Employment Scheme has not been enforced in this camp.

The present total strength of Karnal Camp is 12,575. Out of these 10,135 are now getting atta rations and 975 unattached women and children are getting full rations. After 31-10-49 the gratuitous relief will be confined to only un-attached and infirm persons in the East Punjab camp.

(b)	Karnal Camp	Total population: 12,575 Rajputs: 776 families comprising 3,252 persons.
	Kurukshetra Camp.	Total population: 44,789. Rajputs: Nil. (All Punjabis from Kurukshetra have since been transferred.
(c)	Karnal Camp.	Rajput Land-holders: 124 families Rajput Non-land-holders: 652
	Kurukshetra Camp.	Nil.
(d)	Karnal camp.	9 families.
	Kurukshetra Camp.	figures not available.

LOANS AND GRANTS TO REFUGEES IN AMBALA DISTRICT.

***1397. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib:** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state:-

(a) the number of refugees in rural and urban areas community-wise who were given loans and grants in each month from November 1948 to September, 1949 in the Ambala District;

(b) the number of refugees, residing in villages, who were given food taqavi in each month from September 1948 to September 1949. Tehsil-wise in the Ambala District;

(c) the number of refugees who were not given food taqavi during the said period, tehsil-wise, in Ambala District and the reason therefor?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: It is regretted that it has not been possible so far to collect the required information, It will be communicated direct to the hon. Member as soon as it is available.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FARIDKOT TRANSPORT COMPANY LIMITED.

*1404. **Chaudhri Matu Ram** : Will the hon. Minister for Public works be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Faridkot Transport Company Limited plying lorries for hire on Ferozepore-Muktsar road has not been allotted to any displaced transport operators when the Company had over 90 percent Muslim shares; if so, the reason therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

Faridkot Transport Company is registered in Faridkot State and as such East Punjab Government had no authority to allot vacant muslim permits of the Company to any refugee Company.

HUNGER STRIKE IN AMBALA CENTRAL JAIL.

*1418. **Ch. Rattan Singh:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state;

(a) whether Shri Vidya Rattan, B. A., of Ambala District now detained in Ambala Central Jail as a Communist prisoner has gone on hunger strike recently;

(b) The date he began his hunger strike;

(c) The present condition of the said prisoner owing to hunger strike;

(d) The causes that led Shri Vidya Rattan, B. A. , to resort to hunger strike;

(e) The number of other Communist hunger strikers, if any in Ambala Central Jail, the causes of their resorting to hunger strike?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) Yes.

(b) Since 20th September, 1949.

(c) His present condition is satisfactory.

Premier :

(d) Shri Vidya Rattan B. A., as other Communist detenus resorted to hunger strike to secure the grant of certain demands, specified in Appendix A, of which a copy is placed on the table of the House.

(e) 47 Communist detenus including Shri Vidya Rattan, B. A., are at present on hunger strike in the Central Jail at Ambala. No other prisoner is on hunger strike there. Reason for the hunger strike has been stated against item (d).

APPENDIX A.

1. All detenus should be released unconditionally or tried judicially.
2. All detenus and Communist convicts should be given A class.
3. Diet allowance should be increased to Rs. 3/- per day.
4. Monthly pocket allowance of Rs. 50/- should be granted.
5. An initial grant of Rs. 300/- should be given to every detenu on admission for purchase of clothing and bedding which should become the property of the detenu.
6. Every detenu should be given Rs. 50/-as family allowance which should be increased later, on the merits of each case.
7. Government should pay compenastion for the loss suffered by detenus on account of their detention.
8. Public Safety Act should be repealed.
9. Parole when applied for should be sanctioned.

EXAMINATION OF VETERINARY HOSPITALS

327. Sardar Sajjan Singh: Will the hon. Mininister for Devolpment be pleased to state:-

(a) the number of Veterinary hospitals in the rural and urban areas of each district of this Province on 31-3-49;

(b) the population of rural and urban areas in each District according to the last census;

(c) the expenditure incurred on the staff of these hopitals including that on the district Headqurters establishment in each district together with that on the Senior District officer during the year **1948-49**;

(d) the amount of expenditure on medicines, instruments etc. in these hospitals in each district during the years **1948-49**;

(e) total number of the Veterinary hospitals in the East Punjab on 30-9-47 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) The hon. Member is referred to part (c) of the answer given to question no. 295.

(b) It is not understood whether by the word 'population the cattle population of the rural and urban areas is requried. If so, the information is not readily available. A statement showing districtwise total figures of livestock census for **1945** is, however, enclosed. ‡

(c) and (d) the hon. Member is referred to parts (e), (f) and (g) of the answer to question no. 295. put on 10 10-49 ‡

ALLOTMENT OF LAND AT VILLAGE AHMEDPUR DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

328. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Land in village Ahmedpur Tehsil Patti District Amritsar, has been allotted on a quasi permanent basis ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the refugee land owners of village Raja Jang Bedian, Sahari-Hardd and Kotli Abu Bakkar, Tehsil Kasur (Pakistan) have a better claim than any other party to get this land allotted to them on a Quasi Permanent basis ;

---

‡ kept in the Library.

‡ Page (1) 35 Supra

[**Sardar Sajjan Singh**]

(c) whether it is a fact that certain refugee land-owners of the villages mentioned in part (b) above were allotted lands temporarily in 1947-48, if so, the number of such land owners ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that some of the temporary allottee have not been allotted lands in the village referred to in part (a) above; if so, their number together with the area of land to which they were entitled ;

(e) whether it is a fact that some of the refugee land-owners who were not allotted lands temporarily in this village have since been allotted lands there ; if so, their number together with the total area of land allotted to them ;

(f) if the answer to parts (d) and (e) above be in the affirmative, the reasons for not allotting land on a quasi-permanent basis to temporary allottees mentioned in part (d) above and allotting land to non-allottees referred to in part (e) above .

(g) the minimum area of land fixed for over-flow from Patti Tehsil ;

(h) whether it is a fact that any of the allottees mentioned in part (e) above have been allotted between 40 to 60 standard acres of land in this village ; if so the names of these allottees with full home address together with the area of land allotted to each of them ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: (a) Yes, but the allotment has been cancelled.

(b) Does not arise as the allotment has been cancelled.

(c) Yes. The number of land owners who were allotted land temporarily is 63.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) (i) Does not arise.

(ii) Does not arise.

CLEANING OF GILLIPUN MINOR, MAJITHA DIVISION.

Upper Bari Doab Canal.

329. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(a) the last date when the Gillipun Minor, Majitha Division Upper Bari Doab Canal was broomed and cleaned between Burji No. 35 and 85 before 15-8-49 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the roofs of two bridges over this minor between Burji No. 35 and 55 were broken as a result of which flow of water was hindered, if so, the date on which these roofs were found broken ;

(c) whether the Executive Engineer, Majitha Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar, received my letter No. 333 and 337, dated 6-1-49 in which the facts referred to in parts (a) and (b) above were reported ;

(d) if the answer to part (c) be in the affirmative, what action was taken by the authorities uptil 31-8-49, if not, the the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) The silt clearance of of Gillipun Minor was not found necessary after partition. Only berm trimming was done in the month of July 1949 from R. D. 49 to 55.

(b) Wan village used to be irrigated from the portion of the Gillipun Minor now in West Punjab. The minor had to be diverted below R. D. 55000 in order to provide new source of supply to Wan villags through the lands of Dal Village. The Government sanctioned the diversion alignment after full consideration of the technical and financial grounds, however, the villagers of Dal got into their heads from some unreliable source that the alignment sanctioned by Govern - ment was due to the existence of two bridges at R. D. 49 and 55 of the old Minor. The Dal villagers took the law into their hands and dismantled out completely the village road bridge at R. D. 49000 and the foot bridge at R. D. 55,000, causing a loss of about Rs. 3,000 to Government, so that Government would change the alignment and would make a new channel right from R. D. 49000. The cases were reported to Police for damage to Government property, but were reported as untraced. The temporary wooden crossings existed at both sites and the reconstruction of new bridges at these sites is under consideration.

(c) Yes.

(d) The letter was replied by Executive Engineer, Majitha Division, vide, his letter No. 1530-21, dated 24-2-49, indicating the action already taken by the Department.

WARABANDI OF CANAL IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT

330. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(a) the maximum period fixed under the rule for the preparation and completion of Warabandi under section 68 of the Canal Act ;

(b) whether it is a fact that certain land owners of village Dall, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar, submitted application on 14-5-49 and 19-6-49 to the Executive Engineer Majtha Division Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar, for sanctioning warabandi of the canal outlet situated between Burji 15 and 16 of Daleeri Minor under Section 68 of the Canal Act.

(c) whether it is a fact that the warabandi papers could be not completed uptil 25-9-49, if so; the reasons therefor;

(d) the time ordinarily required for the finalisation of the warabandi ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) No period is fixed under the Canal Act.

(b). Yes.

(c) The case has been completed as far as the Canal Department is concerned. The rules require that the record of rights in land should be compared with the Civil records. The Civil Patwari and the records are not available as they are all collected at Jullundur in connection with the rehabilitation work.

(d) The time normally required is six months, but in contested and disputed cases, it may take a year, because justice has to be done as between the various parties involved.

ALLOTMENT OF LANDS IN VILLAGE RASULPUR, DISTRICT AMRITSAR

331. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue; be pleased to state :—

(a) the grade in which the land of village Lulliani Tehsil Kasur (Pakistan) was placed by the Rehabilitation Department at the time of grading the lands;

(b) the grade in which the land of village Rasulpur, Tehsil Patti District Amritsar, was placed by the Rehabilitation Department at the time of grading the lands for quasi-permanent purposes ;

(c) whether it is a fact that certain owners of the village referred to in part (a) above were allotted lands on the quasi-permanent basis ; if so, the names of such allottees and the area allotted to each one of them ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that allotment orders in respect of some of the allottees mentioned in part (c) were cancelled on the ground that the lands of village mentioned in part (a) was 1st grade and that of village mentioned in part (b) was 2nd or 3rd grade ; if so, the names of persons so affected ;

(e) whether it is a fact that allottment orders of some of the allottees having the same status and owning the same kinds of lands in the village mentioned in part (a) have not been cancelled ; if so, the names of such persons together with the reasons for this discrimination ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) The village was placed n grade I.

(b) The village was placed in grade I of Hithar assessment circle but this is being reviewed.

(c) Yes. The names are given in the list placed below.

(d) No.
(e) Does not arise.

The following persons were allotted land on permanent basis.

		St. Acres	Units.
1.	Asa Singh son of Vir Singh, Jat,	32	6
2.	Inder Singh son of Dhyan Singh, Jat.	14	10
3.	Anop Singh son of Dhyan Singh, Jat.	3	15,3/4
4.	Angres Singh son of Jit Singh, Jat.	26	4,3/4
5.	Bahali Ram s/o Gobind Ram, Brahmin.	2	8½
6.	Baghel Singh s/o Nehal Singh, Jat.	1	11.4/3
7.	Jewan Singh alias Karam Singh s/o Buta Singh.	30	1
8.	Hakim Singh s/o Wazir Singh, Jat.	20	5¼
9.	Dula Singh s/o Kapur Singh, Jat.	29	8
10.	Dhar Singh s/o Vir Singh, Jat.	28	11
11.	Sajjan Singh s/o Bagga Singh, Jat.	1	11¾
12.	Surat Singh s/o Nand Singh, Jat.	40	9
13.	Kapoor Singh s/o Phoola Singh, Jat.	1	10¼
14.	Kartar Singh s/o Nand Singh, Jat.	40	3
15.	Shamsher Singh s/o Dharam Singh,	–	11¼

[Minister for Revenue]

		St. Acres	Units
16.	Kundan Singh s/o Mula Singh,	1	12½
17.	Gajjan Singh s/o Dula Singh, Jat.	3	4½
18.	Gulzari Lal s o Sur Singh, Khatri.	9	4.3/4
19.	Ganga Singh s/o Malook Singh, Jat.	19	11½
20.	Gobind Ram s/o Nihal Singh.	4	12½
21.	Gokha Singh s/o Narain Singh, Jat.	11	10½
22.	Labh Singh s/o Bur Singh, Jat.	24	13½
23.	Ladha Singh s/o Bhag Singh, Jat.	33	5
24.	Mohinder Singh s/o Bur Singh, Jat.	25	14½
25.	Gopal Singh s/o Bur Singh, Jat.	25	14¼
26.	Major Singh s/o Arjan Singh, Jat.	26	4¼
27.	Narainjan Singh s/o Daula Singh, Jat.	3	4½
28.	Vir Singh s/o Dharam Singh, Jat.	-	12

BICYCLES FOR POLICE

332 Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :-

(a) the number of bicycles sanctioned for each of the rural Police Stations in Taran Taran and Patti Tehsils of Amritsar District.

(b) the date on which this sanction was given.

(c) Whether the Government is aware of the fact that the work of the police has increased by three times that of the per-war days.

(d) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of the bicycles in each police station; if not the reasons therefor ;

(e) what arrangement, if any exists for conveyance of the investigating Head Constables in the aforesaid rural areas

[f] what action, if any, does the Government propose to take to give further conveyance facilities to the investigating Head Constables ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:-

[a] Tehsil Taran Taran

1.	P. S. City Taran Taran	3
2.	P. S. Sadar " "	3

3.	P. S. Sirhali	3
4.	P. S. Verowal	3
5.	P. S. Jhabal	3
6.	P. S. Gharinda	3
	Tehsil Patti	
1.	P. S. Patti	3
2.	P. S. Valtoha	4
3.	P. S. Khalra	2
4.	P. S. Bhikhiwind	3

(b) 28. 7. **1945** in respect of the Police Stations of Tehsil Taran Taran and after partition of the province, in respect of Police Stations of Tehsil Patti.

(c) The work has increased about 2 times.

(d) The matter is being examined.

(e) Asstt Sub Inspectors. are sanctioned for all police stations for investigation duties and not Head Constables. The Asstt Sub-Inspectors are paid conveyance allowance at Rs. 25, - p. m.

(f) Does not arise in view of the reply to the question at (e).

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES FOR HARIJAN AND SIKH STUDENTS BELONGING TO BACKWARD CLASSES

333. Master Gurbanta Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state:-

(a) the number of Harijans and Sikh students belonging to backward classes in the middle and high classes in the Government and semi Government recognised schools and the colleges in this Province;

(b) the number of students referred to above who have benefitted under the Harijan Walfare Scheme by remission of their fees. and the number of those who have not benefitted under this Scheme ;

(c) the reason for not remitting the fees of such students ;

(d) the number of college and high school students belonging to the above referred to classes who have not been awarded scholarships ;

(Master Gurbanta Singh)

(e) the number of those students whose fees were returned and who were awarded scholarships from 1st October to 31st March last year;

(f) the reasons for not returning the fees and not awarding scholarship to the rest of the students ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

The information asked for by the hon. Member is not yet available. It will be communicated to the hon. Member when received.

REPRESENTATION OF HARIJANS IN SERVICES.

334 Master Gurbanta Singh: Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

(a) the number of Tehsildars and Naib-tehsildars employed in connection with the Grow-More Food Campaign ;

(b) the number of Harijans among them ; if there is none the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is fact that some proportion is fixed for Harijans in the recruitment to services ;

(d) whether the Government is aware of the fact that a vacancy of one Naib-Tehsildar intended for Harijans exists in the Jullundur Divison ; if so when it is likely, to be filled up?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

The information asked by the hon. Member is not yet available. It will be supplied to the hon. Member when ready.

SUBORDINATE SERVICES IN SIMLA AND AMRITSAR DISTRICTS.

335. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

(a) the number of employees in the subordinate services at Simla and Amritsar District Headquarters on 31-8-49 respectively;

(b) the number of the employees who were provided accomodation through the Government help from 31-8-48 to 31-8-49;

(c) the number of the employees who had been provided no housing accomodation by the Government during the aforesaid period in the province so far ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: The time and trouble involved in collecting the information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

PURCHASE OF ARMS FROM MALKHANAS.

336. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

(a) the names of such M. L. As who were permitted by the Government to purchase revolvers, pistols, guns and rifles from the District Malkhanas of the districts between 15-8-48 and 15-9-49 and the price paid by each of them for the arms purchased together with the kind of the arms purchased by each one of them;

(b) the names and full addresses of such persons who were allowed to purchase arms of different kinds from the District Malkhanas on the recommendations of the M. L. As with the names of the M.L.As during the period mentioned above together with the price paid and the kind of the weapon purchased in each case;

(c) the names and full addresses of the Congress office holders who were allowed by the Government to purchase arms from the Malkhanas of the Districts during the aforesaid period with the price and the kind of the weapon purchased in each case;

(d) the names with full addresses of other persons who do not fall in any of the aforesaid categories and who were allowed to purchase arms from the Malkhanas of the districts during the period mentioned above with the kind of the weapon purchased and the price paid in each case?

The hon. Dr Gopi Chand Bhargava: The time and trouble involved in collecting the information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES OR ENQUIRY COMMITTEES OR BOARDS.

337. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Premier be please to lay on the table a statement showing therein :–

(a) the names of the advisory committees or enquiry committees or boards other than the Select Committees of the East Punjab Legislative Assembly appointed or constituted by the East Punjab Government between the period of the 17th August 1947 to 30th September 1949;

(b) the names of the members (both M. L. As and others) of all those committees appointed or constituted during this period;

(c) the number of sittings of each of these committees or boards during this period;

(d) the travelling allowance drawn by each of these members for work in connection with these committees during this period?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: The information asked by the hon. Member is not yet available. It will be communicated to the hon. Member when ready.

PRIVILEGE MOTION AND REMARKS OF SHRI BHIM SEN SACHAR IN THE PRESS

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Urban) (*Hindustani*) *:* Sir, I want your permission to make a statement on the floor of the House with regard to my resignation which I tendered to His Excellency the Governor the other day from the Premiership of the province.

Shri Virendra: (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing West Division Multan, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*) **:** On a point of privilege, Sir, I want to draw your attention to a news item appearing in today's 'Tribune'.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: On a point of order, Sir, I seek your permission to make a statement on the floor of the House regarding the circumstances under which I submitted my resignation.

Mr. Speaker : May I know what the hon. Member Shri Virendr wants to say ?

Shri Virendra: It is a matter relating to the privileges of this hon. House, and the privilege motion must have precedence.

Mr. Speaker: It would have been better if the hon. Member had brought that report to my notice in my room instead of raising it on the floor of the House straightaway. Anyhow, please proceed.

Shri Virendra: Sir, I invite your attention to a news item which has appeared in today's 'Tribune'. This is a report of the speech alleged to have been made by the ex-Premier in a conference held at Ludhiana. In that speech he said certain things which tantamount to a reflection on this hon. House. The press report says –

> Shri Bhim Sen Sachar disclosed that he prefered to displease several M. L. As rather than accept their illegal demands. That was, he said, the main reason why he became unpopular among several M. L. As whose votes could easily be won over by pleasing them after doing wrong things.

I want to submit that it would have been better if the hon. ex-Premier had named those M. L. As. and specified the nature of the charges which he levelled against them. He has created a misconception in the mind of the public by not divulging the names of those M.L.As. Consequently the people at large think that all the hon. Members of this House are dishonest. I would therefore request him not only to reveal the names of those M.L.As. who asked him to do irregular things, but also to clearly state the allegations against them. I think it is a breach of the privilege of the House.

Mr. Speaker : It is for me to see whether there has been any breach of privilege or not. The hon. Member has just brought it to my notice. May I know whether it is a comment of the paper?

Shri Virendra: No, Sir, it is a news item.

Mr. Speaker: I will go through it and then I shall let the House know whether there has been a breach of any privilege or not.

Shri Virendra: Sir, in this connection I would refer you to May's Parliamantary Practice where it is laid down that casting of aspersions on the House constitutes a breach of the privilege.

Mr. Speaker: I am thankful to the hon. Member for helping me by quoting May's Parliamentary Practice. As I have already said, I shall go through the press report and give my considered opinion tomorrow.

STATEMENT BY SHRI BHIM SEN SACHAR ON HIS RESIGNATION OF PREMIERSHIP

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General Urban) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I tendered my resignation from the office of Premiership to the Governor on the 18th instant. It goes without saying that when a Premier resigns his office, great significance is attached to this momentous event, because it has a far reaching effect not only on this House but also on the general life of the province. I, therefore, feel it my bounden duty to apprise this House of all the circumstances which led to my resignation. You will remember, Sir, that on the 6th of April last I was invited by His Excellency the Governor and was entrusted with the task of formation of a ministry. I accepted the invitation and engaged myself in the accomplishment of this task. Hon. Members are well aware that when I got this opportunity of constituting a Cabinet, I was not lucky to enjoy the confidence of all the members of the House. But I had majority at my back and 33 members were against my leadership and they were not with me. Anyhow I had acquired a right to form a Government of my own choice. But things took such a turn that when I was contemplating to form a Cabinet in a certain manner, I was advised that it would be better if, instead of constituting a homogeneous ministry from amongst my own supporters, I formed a composite Cabinet by taking a few members from the opposite group as Ministers.

Sardar Swaran Singh: On a point of order, Sir, Rule 38 o the Rules of Procedure lays down:-

> "A member who has resigned the office of Minister may with the consent of the Speaker make a personal statement in explanation of his resignation"

Now the rule under which the hon. Member is making a statement contemplates only making a personal statement in explanation of his resignation. So there can be no personal statement in respect of formation of the Government. This is a matter which took place in April last. So far as this hon. House is co cerned, the scope of the personal statement under rule 38 is confined to explanation of the resignation and not explanation of the formation of the Government. Therefore, I submit that in the first instance this should be a personal statement and the personal statement must be an explanation of his resignation. It has got nothing to do with the circumstances of the formation of the Government.

Mr. Speaker: These are only introductory remarks. He might give his explanation afterwards.

Sardar Swaran Singh: There should be a limit to introductory remarks.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: I wish to assure my hon. Friend that that explanation concerns me and he has nothing to do with it.

I was submitting, Sir, that I accepted their advice at that time. It was the advice of the hon. Members of this august House.

Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi: On a point of order, Sir, May I know if the consultations made privately can be referred to here in this House ?

Mr. Speaker: Which consultations *Mashwara* ?

Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi: The consultations which the hon. Member is referring to. That '*Mashwara*' was never given by this House.

Mr. Speaker: He is just making a reference to the circumstances when he was asked to form a Ministry.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, at the time when I was busy with the formation of my Cabinet, I had the good fortune of being advised by those very hon. Members of this august House who had voted against me, to include some members in my Cabinet from amongst them. They assured me that they were ready to co-operate with me in carrying on the day-to-day administration of the province. I assure you, Sir, that these hon. Members approached me, and expressed their willlingness to co-operate with me.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth: But I never approached the hon. Member.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: I think, Sir, my hon. Friend will have to wait long before he is in a position to give me any advice. What I wish to point out is that I had the good fortune of receiving this offer by that leader and powerful person under whose very leadership my hon. Friend is working. The hon. Members of this House expressed their willingness to accept this offer. Here I cannot do without saying that it is just possible that in making this offer to the effect that he was prepared to work with me in my Cabinet he might have been carrying out the behests of somebody else.

Mr. Speaker : No insinuation please.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : When I was advised by the hon. Members of this House that he was prepared to work with me in my Cabinet and that he would work in such a way as is expected of a colleague in the Ministry, there is no doubt about it that this arrangement was quite a good one, and it was an arrangement for the welfare and in the interests of the province as a whole. I gladly accepted this offer. The reasons for my doing so are not far to seek. I was and am still of the opinion that we can work and work well in the interests of our province, only if we are united or in other words we can best serve our province if we work together for its peace and prosperity. In view of the then existing divided strength, I felt that this arrangement was the best and the only remedy for having a stable Ministry in the Province. In spite of all the allegations against me I accepted this

[Shri Bhim Sen Sachar]

arrangement and worked it out. This arrangement of a composite Cabinet worked and worked well for more than six months. During this period the Members of my Cabinet worked whole-heartedly. I take this opportunity in this House of thanking the members of my Cabinet for giving me their best co-operation. I have great pleasure in saying this that there was hardly any matter on which there was not complete unanimity in my Cabinet. Again I am glad to remark that it did not take us more than 20 to 25 minutes in deciding important matters in almost all the Cabinet meetings. Further, there was hardly any occasion when any Minister had to say anything or even go to the extent of using harsh words against another.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of information, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member has not given way.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Mr. Speaker, after all you can very well realize the good effects created by the formation of the composite Cabinet in the province. The very formation of this composite Cabinet had assured the people and made them hopeful of the fact that the differences in this House had ceased to exist for all time to come. A very good atmosphere was thus created in the province and everybody felt happy over this unanimity. This heartened the people of the province and everybody found his own place and thus realized his main duties and functions. I quite agree and it gives me great pleasure in saying that if I had not been given this co-operation, it would not have been possible for me to work so well as, I did with their help. Here I cannot do without repeating that a very good atmosphere was created as a result of the co-operation and help extended to me by them. While looking at the conditions of our province, I feel that we are passing through abnormal times. Our province has suffered a very heavy loss. We have amongst us those refugee brethren from Pakistan who have been uprooted there. We have to rehabilitate them. We have to make our province prosperous. We have to create such conditions that people may live in peace and plenty.

Mr. Speaker : That is the object of all Governments. The hon. Member cannot go into generalities. He should restrict himself to his explanation regarding resignation.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : So, Sir, the installation of composite Ministry had a very salutary effect on the services. Under its auspices, they learnt how to discharge their duties honestly and efficiently, boldly and independently.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : That is a matter of opinion.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : My hon. Friend says that there can be difference of opinion on this point, but I might remind him that the opinion of the persons concerned matters more than his opinion.

Mr. Speaker : Order, order. No interruption, please. The hon. Member need not reply to these remarks as they are likely to side-track him.

Sardar Swaran Singh: He is already off the track. (*Laughter*).

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I was going to submit, Sir, that the admnistration was being carried on quite smoothly when suddenly the question of want of confidence in the Premier arose. Sir, as you know the best and most appropriate place for discussion and decision of a no-confidence motion against a Minister is the floor of this august House.

Mr. Speaker: So far as this House is concerned, no Member brought forward any motion of confidence or no-confidence, nor did I prevent any Member from doing so. It is a reflection on the House as a whole and I would ask the hon. Member not to bring in this matter.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: Far be it from me to cast any reflectoin on this hon. House. Sir, I do not mean to discuss how and why I was prevented from bringing a motion of confidence in the House. I just want to point out the reasons of my resignation.

Mr. Speaker : I am not concerned if the party whip did not allow any Member to bring in any motion. I did not disallow any such motion.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, I was only stating a proposition that if a motion of no confidence is moved in the House all the facts come before the public and truth finds an opportunity to get known. But this was not permitted.

Mr. Speaker : Who did not permit it ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, as you know, the normal procedure for expression of want of confidence in a Ministry or a Minister, provided in the Constitution, is to bring a motion of no confidence before the legislature and it is on the result of this motion that the fate of a Ministry depends. If such a motion is carried, the Ministry has to resign. Now, there is the question of party discipline. Being the Leader of the Congress Assembly party which was some days back coterminous with the House, I was bound by its rules of discipline. I was asked to obtain a vote of confidence from the majority of the members of the party. Now, Sir, if for a moment the party is ignored, and the Premier or the leader of the House wants to get a vote of confidence from the House, is it not the duty of his colleagues in the Ministry and the Parlimentary Secretaries to support him ? Does not constitutional propriety demand this ? If any Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary does not agree to give full measure of support or in other words does not agree to vote for the Leader of the

[Shri Bhim Sen Sachar]

House, then the only course left open to him is to tender resignation. In that case the Leader of the House has a free hand to make selection out of others to fill these vacancies. Then he weighs his own strength and thinks over the question of deriving more strength from the other groups. In these circumstances, in accordance with this constitutional procedure I had asked my colleagues in the Cabinet to let me know whether they would be prepared to support me. Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House that this is a very important point, much more important than any prvilege of any individual Member.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Is the hon. Member relevant, Sir ? How does this concern his explanation for resignation ? The pity is that the hon. ex-Premier had lost all support.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is referring to constitutional procedure so far as this House is concerned. In the first place I never prevented any Member of the House from bringing forward any motion of confidence or no-confidence. If any Member of the House did not move a motion of no-confidence, it was open to the hon. Member himself to bring in a motion of confidence. Why did he not adopt that alternative ? Since none of the alternative course was adopted, it is not proper for the hon. Member now to say that something was done which was against constitutional procedure.

Sardar Swaran Singh: On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Member is not entitled to divulge any Cabinet secrets.

Mr. Speaker: He is not divulging any Cabinet secrets.

Sardar Swaran Singh; He was on the point of doing that. (*Laughter*).

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: Sir, I thank you for your observation. You have rightly remarked that the question is really very intricate and important. The logical step was that a motion of no-confidence should have been brought before the House and the sponsors of such motion should have levelled charges against the Government. But I dare say that these people had not the courage to move such a motion on the floor of this House. It shows that constitutional propriety, constitutional decency and constitutional decorum have been flouted and thrown to winds. (*Voices*) Right.

Sardar Partap Singh: It is wrong.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: No, it is right. (*There were shouts and counter shouts*).

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Sir, I would submit that some of the hon. Members have taken into their heads to turn this House into a stable.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I shall not allow this sort of thing to continue in the House.

Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi: Sir, I feel that the hon. Member should withdraw his remarks. (*Voices*) "withdraw"

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. Members behave in this way, then I will have to adjourn the House.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh: Why adjourn the House? You should take action against those Members who do not behave properly.

Mr. Speaker: I am extremely sorry to say that not one Member but many hon. Members are behaving in a disorderly manner.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Sir, all the would be Ministers are doing this.

Mr. Speaker: All the things which Shri Bhim Sen Sachar is saying have appeared in the press and nothing is new in them. I, therefore, expect from the hon. Members of the House to hear him patiently and let him have his say.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: Sir, I was submitting that if the hon. Members had any regard for the constitutional procedure, they would have certainly moved a no-confidence motion in the House. My learned Friend has remarked that I was fast losing confidence of my supporters and had no following. But I must frankly say that this support had been stolen away by my own guests who had been included in the Cabinet.

Mr. Speaker: I am not concerned with what has happened outside the House. The hon. Member should refer to those questions only which concern the House.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: On a point of order, Sir. When any Minister wishes to make any statement of the political position which has led to his resignation, is there any restriction on him while making a statement to explain his position?

Mr. Speaker: Certainly. It does not mean that he can make any statement. He can only make a statement in explanation of his resignation. He cannot go on discussing all sorts of things. In all statements one must be relevant to the point under issue.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Sir, may I bring to the notice of the House that when Shri T. Prakasam resigned, he made a 150-page statement?

Mr. Speaker: Well, let him continue.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal: On a point of order, Sir. May I request you to maintain order in the House and allow a calm hearing? I am sorry to say that continuous interruptions from the Members of the House make it difficult for the hon. Member to proceed with his statement.

Mr. Speaker: I have got the same feeling as the hon. Lady Member has. I appeal to all hon. Members of the House that they should patiently hear the hon. Member who is speaking.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : The former Premier while giving a personal explanation can refer to any event that might have concerned him as a Premier. It is not necessary that he should confine himself to things which have taken place only in this House.

Mr. Speaker : Does the hon. Member mean that he can talk on any matter ? I could have disallowed the hon. Member from making a statement but I allowed him to have his say. All the same I would like him to be relevant to the question. It does not mean that he can talk anything.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : I think he can include in his statement all events which relate to his resignation.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, I hope that I shall not be penalized for the points of orders which are being raised by the various hon. Members of this House. I am perfectly aware that I could not have made this speech without your kind permission.

Sir, what I wish to place before the hon. Members is this, that they should after all see as to what constitutional precedents are being created by them. We should clearly understand the various aspects of joint responsibility of a Cabinet. You will agree with me that a Cabinet cannot function when it stands divided into two sections and one tells the other that it is not in a position to give the necessary co-operation. Not only that. The matter becomes all the more serious when that section is also not prepared to leave the Cabinet. This is something very deplorable. An hon. Friend had remarked as to why I did not bring this matter before the House. I have no hesitation in saying that in comparison with the opposition group, I lacked strength, influence, support, shelter, confidence and everything. This is a plain fact and I have absolutely no intention to put any kind of camouflage on it. I am here before this House to disclose things in their very nakedness and these things should be given the consideration they deserve. No doubt my Government has been overthrown by the efforts of some of my hon. Friends. They are certainly pleased with their success and I congratulate them on it. But they should not lose sight of the fact that for this success of theirs they have made a very heavy sacrifice. They have had to jettison the dignity and constitutional position of this House. They have deprived the Leader of the House of the right to work independently in the Cabinet. They did not allow him to get rid of those Members of his team who would not go the whole hog with him. I remind them that by doing all this they have created bad precedents.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : On a point of order, Sir. I do not know how the question of the dignity of the House or constitutional position come in at all. The former Premier was not at the head of a coalition Government that he wanted the matter to be discussed in the House. He had been a leader of a single party which formed the Government. That party selected him a leader and the same party could throw him out. The House had absolutely nothing to do with this matter.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a point of order ? (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker : I think the hon. Member know that if there are many interruptions, the hon. Member who is speaking will be temped to reply to those interruptions. It would be better not to interrupt him.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, the question that is put to me is, why I had concealed the facts so far and not placed them before the House. Sir, there is a reason for that.

Mr. Speaker : I think the hon. Member will not be prolonging his speech wilfully with a view to obstruct the business of the House. One hon. Member was just now enquiring whether the hon. Member can continue his explanation for any length of time. I would like him to refer to the rules of debate. The relevant rule is Rule 69 on page 17. I read the relevant portion ;

(1) The matter of every speech shall be strictly relevant to the matter before the Assembly.

(2) A member, while speaking shall not—

(iii) utter treasonable, or defamatory words or make use of offensive expressions ;

(vii) use his right of speech for the purpose of wilfully and persistently obstructing the business of the Assembly-

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal : Sir: you are very generous to-day.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, I am grateful to you for reading out the relevant rules. You should certainly stop me from proceeding with my speech as and when you are satisfied that I really mean to obstruct the business of the House wilfully. You need only give me a hint and I shall resume my seat.

Mr. Speaker : I did not mean that. I only wanted to bring it to the notice of the hon. Member.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, you can stop me from proceeding with my speech at any moment. I wish to explain why I had to tender my resignation.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : The hon. Member means to say why he had to suffer this injury.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Surely this was an injury which the hon. Members inflicted not on me but on their own goodselves.

Now I shall explain to the House, how my granary was robbed. (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker : Do not mind interruptions, but try to be relevant.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Well, I would say how my votes were lost.

Mr. Speaker : Is that the only reason ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I was submitting, Sir, that one of the reasons why I had to resign was that the normal constitutional procedure was ignored. Instead of my being able to remove the Ministers who could not co-operate with me, they were permitted to vote against me. I am not ashamed of admitting that the number of my supporters dwindled, but the question which was bound to arise is—what had happened to the majority which I had when I was elected Leader ? Quick ministerial changes are not welcome and the hon. Members of this House must be told about the circumstances under which I had to resign. When I took up the administration of the province I had certain principles before me and I wish to assure the hon. Members that whatever I did was in pursuit of those principles. I had no other consideration before me and my main fault perhaps was that I did not agree to change my point of view.

One of the principles I had before me was that unless the services were assured that they were expected to work independently and honestly, the conditions prevailing in the province could not improve. I told the services that they had a free hand in the administration of the province. I also felt it necessary to bring home to them that they could not treat the Congress men, who had sacrificed their all for the sake of independence of the country, in the manner they used to do before. I impressed on the services the necessity of working honestly. I could be removed from office, but I was not prepared to withstand any attempt to get a Tehsildar or even a Naib-tehsidar removed from Service by unconstitutional means. (*Interruption*). My hon. Friend Shri Virendra desires me to name the persons concerned.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should not mention any names.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : The first person to be annoyed on account of the policy of mine was the hon. Chaudhri Kartar Singh.

Mr. Speaker : As I have requested the hon. Member before, he should avoid personal remarks.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : I have no objection. Let him continue. I rather welcome them. I have a right to reply.

Mr. Speaker : It is not the question of your welcoming them. If you welcome abuses, I cannot allow them on the floor of the House.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : I will give personal explanation later on. Please let him continue.

Mr. Speaker: You welcome them, but I don't.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : When the ex-Premier is making certain statements against me, I should be given an opportunity to explain my position to prove that what he is stating is incorrect.

Mr. Speaker : If the hon. Member says anything against you, you have a right to give personal explanation, but you cannot nterrupt him like this.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : While I was keen on allowing the services a free hand and those quarters whose opinion mattered and that section of the press whose views carried weight, realised that the administration of the province had started being toned up independently and fearlessly. I received the first warning of my losing support. When I decided to transfer the Superintendent of Police of a certain district, an hon. Member accompanied by three others who had supported me came to see me in my office and told me that if I did not cancel that order of transfer, they would withdraw their support to me. I told them that I had great respect for them, but being responsible for the administration of the province, I could not alter the order which I felt I had properly and honestly passed. Then I was asked to postpone the order of transfer for at least a month or two because otherwise the inhabitants of that district would not think high of those hon. Members, who desired the order of transfer to be cancelled. If, not caring for the services and sacrificing their interests, I wished to retain the support of those hon. Members, I could have postponed the order of transfer for a few months.

Mr. Speaker : May I request the hon. Member to avoid personal charges? If he goes on involving all the Members like this then they will have a right of reply and they will make counter-charges one way or the other. Therefore I request him to avoid all personal charges.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I am not naming any hon. Member.

Mr. Speaker: Under the rules a Member cannot make personal charges against other hon. Members of the House by name or otherwise.

Shri Virendra : On a point of order, Sir. I want to submit that it would be better if the hon. Member is allowed to have his say, because the matter will be clarified. At present various statements are appearing in the Press.

Mr. Speaker : I thought it would have been better if these matters had been discussed in the party meeting just as had been done in the past.

Shri Virendra: I want to submit, Sir, that all sorts of statements are appearing in the Press. It will therefore be better if it is clarified as to who is dishonest and who is not.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: I was explaining, Sir, as to why I could not face the House as alleged by some of the hon. Members.

Mr. Speaker : No, you are giving explanation regarding your resignation. (*Laughter.*)

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I am being asked why I resigned when I had full powers of Government at my command. After all I have to explain whether it was due to my disagreement with the policy of higher authorities that I had to resign, or it was due to my disagreement with acertain resolution passed by the Party. I am only stating the facts which led to my resignation.

Mr. Speaker : Certain rules of procedure are violated even while stating facts.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: I am confident, Sir, that I cannot say anything unconstitutional in the presence of a learned person like you.

Mr. Speaker : But still you are saying such things.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Again, as ill-luck would have it, there aorse what is known as steel scandal. This matter of steel scandal started towards the end of 1948, probably in the month of December, 1948. It was at that time that the inspection of all firms dealing in steel was conducted and a list of bogus firms prepared. It was also enquired as to how many Members of the Assembly were involved in those cases. All this was done in 1948.

Premier : On a point of order, Sir. Can the hon. Member refer to a matter which is sub judice ?

Mr. Speaker : I ask the hon. Member not to refer to any matter which is pending before a Court of Law. Moreover he has used the words " bogus firms ". Any Court might be influenced by this expression. He can use " alleged bogus firms ".

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: I am not expressing any opinion on this matter. I am only saying, Sir, that this matter came to a head in December, 1948. The results of the investigations conducted into these allegations reached the Government some time in January, 1949. But some matters are quickly settled by the Government while others take some time. In this way, several months went by. The matter was then referred to the Anti-Corruption Committee for investigation. The officials posted on this work were warned that they should not unnecessarily harass anybody, but at the same time, they should carry on their work unmindful of the name howsoever great, which was involved. Thus the officials started their investigations. But again unfortunately one of the hon. Members of this House came to me and objected to the prosecution of a certain person who was connected with him.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should not make charges against another hon. Member.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I am not making any charge against any hon. Member. I am only explaining as to how this matter started. That hon. Member said to me, " what are you doing ? You are involving my own relative in this steel-scandal".

Mr. Speaker : I have repeatedly asked the hon. Member to restrict himself to an explanation of his resignation. He should not refer to a matter which is sub judice.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Later on, Sir, the policy of the Government in this matter came up for criticism and opposition in the Party.

Mr. Speaker: Is that a Cabinet matter?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh: That has nothing to do with the Cabinet.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: A number of hon. Members of this House actually told me that by undertaking this work of steel scandal I had undermined the reputation of the Congress. Sir, I wish to point out for the information of this House that nearly twelve M. L. As. are such who themselves or whose relatives, are involved in the iron and steel scandal.

Mr. Speaker: I will not allow that. Cases are still pending before Law Courts and this information might go against those who are involved in those cases.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: The ex-Premier stated sometime back that the number of such M. L. As. who are so involved is two. But now he gives the number as twelve,

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: Sir, I wish to submit that a question to this effect was put before the House the other day. In answer to the question the honourable House was informed of the matter. I must say that people are looking to us for guidance and our actions and words are watched by the public at large. So we should not behave in a manner which the people despise.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. Member mean to say that he is allowed to say anything against any hon. Member? I cannot allow that.

Sardar Bachan Singh: On a point of order, Sir. Can general remarks be made or not?

Mr. Speaker: But no insinuation or any charge against any Member can be allowed.

Pandit Bhagat Ram Sharma: Has any action been taken against those M. L. As. who are involved in iron and steel cases?

Mr. Speaker: I have not allowed him to refer to that matter in the House. He can say this in the party.

Sardar Bachan Singh: The Speaker is supposed to be a non-party man.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: Sir, I was saying that I resigned because my granary was robbed. My support fell not because there was any defect in the administration. This was not due to the appointment of the Advocate-General, as it is stated in some

[Shri Bhim Sen Sachar]
quarters. In this connection I wish to remind the hon. Members that he was the same officer for whom a large number of the Members of this House went to the previous Premier to say that his removal was quite unjustified. (*Shouts of no, no*).

Mr. Speaker: I have more than once asked the hon. Member to avoid this. When he says one thing, another Member will refute it and that sort of thing would go on and it would be impossible to proceed with the business of the House.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: Sir, I wish to submit that all the hon Members know that I live in Punjab and I have relatives here. I have social contacts with many people in the Province. Simply because the Advocate General happens to be some relative of mine, he could not be denied justice. As to my relationship with him I might say for the information of the hon. Members that his (Advocate General's) daughter was married to a son of one of the brothers of my father-in-law.

Sardar Swaran Singh: It is news to me. I never knew that it was such a close relationship. (*Laughter.*)

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: Sir, I was saying that the fact that the Advocate General happens to have some sort of relationship with me should not have stood in the way of his getting justice which was his due. The matter was decided on merit alone. My point is that my support did not fail because of any defect in the administration of affairs of the Province, but because some of the M. L. As. did not like my vigorous drive against black market and corruption. One section broke away from me on this issue while another section went against me on the question of ejectment of tenants by landlords. I could not allow the landlords to heap sufferings upon the poor tenants and some Members opposed me.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is again bringing in personalities. He should avoid that.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh: Ask Sardar Joginder Singh Mann.

Sardar Joginder Singh Mann: Why bring me in unnecessarily? He should withdraw, Sir. (*Interruptions*).

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: Sir, my submission is that the real fact of the matter is that complaints were received to the effect that the tenants were being compelled to agree to unfavourable conditions. When I saw this I said to myself. "Is this the policy of the Congress? Is this the manifesto that we placed before the people?"

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: This is most objectionable. He is blaming the best organisation in the country. He should withdraw these remarks.

Mr. Speaker : I find that hon. Members are making too many interruptions. I would like to warn the House that if this sort of thing goes on, I shall have to name those who interrupt and they shall have to withdraw from the House. There is noise and uproar from many parts of the House. I would request hon. Members to keep the diginity of the House. I am sorry to say that most of the hon. Members are not conversant with the rules of procedure of the House. If any Member has got something to say, he should say at the appropriate time and not stand up after every minute and say 'On a point of order, Sir'. That sort of thing is against the rules. I would again request hon. Members to keep the decorum of the House. It is their own honour.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: May I know, Sir, whether those hon. Members of the House about whom the ex-Premier is making reference and is raising very important issues, would be given an opportunity to have their say ? He has made certain accusations without substantiating them. I would request you, Sir, to ask him to substantiate those charges as they are absolutely baseless.

Mr. Speaker : No debate can be allowed. Only a Minister can be allowed to say something by way of reply. I will read the relevant rule for the information of the hon. Member :

(1) A member who has resigned the office of Minister may with the consent of the Speaker make a personnel statement in explanation of his resignation.

(2) Such statement shall ordinarily be made after questions and before the business on the list for the day is entered upon.

(3) On such statement no debate shall be allowed : provided that a Minister shall be entitled after the member has made his statement to make a statement pertinent thereto.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : With due deference to your ruling, Sir, since the ex-Premier is implicating all and sundry in his statement, it is fair that an opportunity should be given to hon. Members to refute those charges. The ex-Premier has on more than one occassion implicated several hon. Members of this House.

Mr. Speaker : I have asked the hon. Member (Shri Bhim Sen Sachar) more than once to refrain from making personal charges against anybody. I will refer him to the rules of debate :

A member while speaking shall not :

(iii) utter treasonable, or defamatory words or make use of offensive expressions ;

[Mr. Speaker]

(iv) refer to a matter of fact on which a judicial decision is pending ;

* * * *

(vi) make a personal charge against a member ;

(vii) use his right of speech for the purpose of wilfully and persistently obstructing the business of the Assembly.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, I was submitting that my hon. Friends did not see eye to eye with my policy which I wanted to adopt in order to stop improper and illegal ejectments of tenants by the landlords-tenants who regularly paid their land revenue and other dues and did not in any way offend their landlords. My hon. Friends, however, took strong exception to that policy and in view of their disapproval of that policy, they honestly decided not to extend their co-operation to me.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : On a point of order, Sir. All those hon. Members who have been charged have a right to explain their position.

Mr. Speaker : Thank you. I shall be careful to see that the hon. Member does not make any charge against any other hon. Member.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : The point is, Sir, that he is making a reflection.

Mr. Speaker : Order, order. It is for me to see whether he is making any reflection or not.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, I have said nothing which could have offended my hon. Friend. What I said in simple terms was that my policy in this matter was wrong in the opinion of my hon. Friends.

Mr. Speaker : All the same the hon. Member should avoid making a reflection on any one. He must presume that every hon. Member whatever he is doing is doing in good faith. If you doubt the *bona fides* of what a person is doing, it is a clear reflection.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: With a view to remove any misunderstanding that might have been caused in the minds of the hon. Members, I would like to repeat my words. I said that my hon. Friends disagreed with my policy in regard to the steel scandal anti-corruption drive and protection to tenants against their improper and illegal ejectments by the landlords, since they considered it to be wrong and honestly believed it to be so.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member perhaps does not realize that by saying so he is unintentionally involving himself. Any Member can get up and say that he honestly believes a certain thing to be right. The hon. Member is a polished and experienced parliamentaraian and I would ask him to avoid bringing in these matters on the floor of the House.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: Sir, I am not mentioning the name of any hon. Member. I am only trying to explain the reasons why I resigned. Some of the hon. Members differred from my policy and left me and therefore I lost my supporters. Differences could be even on ordinary matters. Some of the hon. Members differred with me on my policy and they objected as to why I did not stop the holding of bye-elections at Amritsar although as Premier I could have done so. If I had not allowed the bye-election to be held, I would not have given an opportunity to the people to show their faith in the Congress candidate as compared with the candidates of the other parties. Perhaps in their opinion it would have been better if I had exercised my powers in not allowing the bye-election to be held. Differences could be in the matter of treatment towards the hunger strikers, which could be different in different cases. One could show some sympathy towards the communist hunger strikers and go to the extent of even shedding tears if the hunger strikers happened to be Congressmen, but in the case of R. S. S. hunger-strikers or prisoners one had no right even to think about them and thus treat them indifferently. It has also been said that R. S. S. was a dangerous body. There could be difference of opinion on the question as to why I did not agree to give full support to Sir Khizar Hayat Khan, the then Premier in the United Punjab, as he wanted me to do. There can be difference on the question of policy. There could be difference of policy as to why I issued orders to the effect that every Government servant must attend his office at exactly 10 a. m.

Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi: As if this is a great achievement.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Does the hon. Member mean to say that some hon. Members of this House wanted that the Government officials shou'd not attend offices at ten, while he was trying that officials must be punctual ? This is a reflection on the hon. Members of this House Did any hon. Member approach you not to do so ?

Sardar Bachan Singh: On a point of order, Sir. When the hon. Member gives reasons, you ask him if any hon. Member had approached him not to do so, and when he refers to a certain person who approached him to do certain things, you ask him not to mention the name of that person.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: That is the reason why I wish that he should not say these things. These are indirect reflections on the hon. Members. He should not bring in his speech things which directly or indirectly reflect on the honesty of other hon. Members of the House.

Shri Virendra : On a point of order, Sir. The ex-Premier has just stated that certain hon. Members who had voted for him left him on the ground that they could not extend their co-operation for eliminating corruption and black market. Fortunately I was one amongst those members who voted for him. If this position is not cleared, it might be misunderstood that my name is also included in the list of those persons who were in favour of corruption and black market.

Mr. Speaker : Yes, yes.

Shri Virendra : On a point of order, Sir. The ex-Premier has made allegations against individual members. We must also be allowed to have our say in reply to those allgations.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: Sir, I wish to say a few words for the information of my hon. Friend Shri Virendra who has just interrupted me. There is no denying the fact that allegations are being made through Press and in the form of memoranda. But at the same time I wish to point out that I have been watching them and went through these allegations even before I submitted my resignation. However what I wish to point out is that I have issued an order which is on record, to the effect that a request should be made to the Chief justice of the Federal Court to appoint 2 High Court Judges to hold enquiries into the allegations of all kinds against every hon. Member and the Ministers, both past and present. If this judical enquiry is made, I am sure people would be satisfied and convinced. Further I will go to the extent of saying this that public opinion should be obtained. All the orders that I have issued are there on record and people will know for themselves about my work and about the work of others. These are the questions of public life and I cannot do without saying that all of us should lay emphasis on the point that in the light of my order which is on record in the files, a complete judicial enquiry should be held so that people may know for themselves as to where we stand and who is actually at fault.

Shri Virendra : We are ready.

Mr. Speaker : I would welcome it. Perhaps the hon. Members do not know that under the new Constitution in the case of breach of privilege a Member can be punished. In the new Constitution there is a provision under which if an hon. Member of the House makes allegations against another Member of the House and if those allegations are not proved, the matter can be brought before the House and the House can take action against that Member. I feel that all these allegations against some of the hon. Members of this House are a stigma on the House itself and I think all these questions should be examined by a Committee of the House.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : We shall feel grateful to you for this.

Mr. Speaker: I can't say who will then be thankful to me and who will not be.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: As for me, Sir, I shall thank you and I shall gladly accept any punishment, if I am found guilty of doing anything derogating from the dignity of this House. If you permit me, Sir, I am prepared to make allegations, accusations and charges, here and now. I can even now disclose which of the hon. Members of this House are involved in doing things which are a matter of shame for this House.

Mr. Speaker: I am considering the remedy and shall suggest it when the hon. Member has finished.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: Sir, through you, I would request the House to sit in *camera* and hear the charges that I want to make.

Mr. Speaker: I shall take up that question myself when you have finished.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: Sir, in the end, I must express my gratitude to you for giving me time to explain the circumstances leading to my resignation. I have made it clear that the support that I enjoyed when I was elected Leader of the House did not dwindle because there was any defect in my administration, or there was any increase in black marketing, corruption or exploitation or because I was responsible for holding bye-elections and not helping the Congress candidate as alleged in certain quarters. I have no hesitation in admitting that I had to resign, firstly, because my colleagues in the Ministry were not prepared to support me and secondly because some hon. Members did not like the anti-corruption drive and the pro-tenant policy initiated by me. I have now almost come to the end of my statement. After what I have stated, nobody in the House can say that I resigned because I felt that the responsibility that I had taken upon my shoulders was too heavy or that the work was too onerous to be discharged by me satisfactorily. I have stated the circumstances under which I had to resign. The House can now judge for itself whether there was any other alternative open to me. (*Cheers.*)

Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindustani*): Sir, my task is somewhat difficult, as I have to speak under certain limitations. Being a humble soldier of the Congress Party, which I consider to be a very well-organised party, I think it my duty to observe its rules of discipline and, as a matter of principle, I feel that all the hon. Members who were returned to this House on Congress ticket ought to do so, so long as they are there by reason of their having been elected on the Congress ticket. So, Sir, I am not in a position to reply to those charges which have been directly or indirectly aimed at the Congress Parliamentary Board. According to a resolution of the Congress working Committee, no member of the Congress Assembly Party can voice his complaints against any Minister through the Press. He can only take his complaints to the Congress Parliamentary Board. Being a true soldier of the Congress, I am not prepared to violate any of its rules in this matter. The President and the General Secretary of the Indian National Congress have already issued rejoinders to the statement which my learned friend Shri Sachar gave to the Press. So it is not necessary for me to reply to the charges made therein. His complaint regarding reversing of the old policy of allowing the Premier to reshuffle his Cabinet without requiring him to obtain the vote of confidence has also been replied to.

My second limitation is the oath of secrecy. Keeping it in view, I am neither now prepared to disclose anything that has come to my knowledge as a Minister nor would be prepared to do so even when I cease to be a Minister. Mr. Sachar has made certain allegations against the hon. Members of the House. It would have been better, if he had not done so. I am in a position to reply to these attacks and disclose the reasons which have prompted him to do so, but in view of the oath of secrecy taken by me and also in the interests of good administration, I do'nt think it desirable to disclose the actual state of affairs. (*Cheers*). Ministers may come and Ministers may go; the work of administration cannot come to a stop. No Minister can claim infallibility. Undue criticism and interference with the day to day administration cannot make for improved efficiency in the services. If Shri Sachar thinks that the members of the Congress Assembly Party have been, during his regime, acting in a manner which did not befit the dignity of the organisation to which they belong, he should sever all connections with this party, resign from his seat and seek election again instead of violating the oath of secrecy on the pretext of giving a personal explanation. It was unbecoming on his part to say things which he is forbidden by the oath of secrecy to disclose.

Now I might say a few words about the formation of the present Ministry. When Shri Sachar was proposed for leadership of the Party in the Party Meeting held about six months back— --- — —.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know whether it is the privilege of the Leader of the House to refer to party questions on the floor of the House ?

Mr. Speaker: The hon, Member who has just finished while giving explanatian has referred to all sorts of questions and the hon. Premier has to give a reply to those things.

Premier : Sir, as you are aware, between March 11 and April 6, 1949, my Government had done nothing, except that I wanted a reshuffle of my Ministry, to forfeit the confidence of the hon. Members of this House. It was surely not due to any defect in the administrative policy of my Ministry that a notice of motion of no confidence against me was given. Let any tribunal decide if during the last six months I have done anything illegal or improper in the preformance of my official duty. I shall have no hesitation in accepting its verdict and undergoing the maximum punishment, if I am declared guilty. I challenge those who have tried to make allegations against me. (Cheers). Sir, I can say without any fear of contradiction that the administration to which reference has been made was reared and built under the auspices of my previous Ministry between 15th August, 1947 and 6th April, 1949. Who is not aware of the conditions pervailing in the province immediately after the partition ? If today, we find conditions in the Province nearly normal, the credit for this goes to the first Ministry which was formed after the partition. As a humble servant of the people, I can justly feel proud in the thought that I have always done my work conscientiously.

Sir, there is a charge against the hon. Members that they did not approve of the policy of the hon. Ex-Premier which has been referred to by him in the course of his speech and for this reason they did not agree to vote for him. He thinks that the hon. Members withdrew their support not due to an honesty of purpose but in view of their personal differences with him. But may I ask if such difference of opinion amongst the members did not exist before or would not exist hereafter ? At any rate, it is the duty of every administrator to run the administration of the Government on sound lines without caring for the opposition he may have to face in this behalf. I would like to refer to the meeting of 21st September 1949 in which a directive was issued to all members of the Assembly Party that the tenure of a Leader would be co-terminous with the life of the Assembly. If any motion of no-confidence had to be moved, that could be done by obtaining first the permission of the Parlimentary Board. So if the hon. Members had exercised their due right they did not do anything wrong or against any constitutional procedure. If there is anything against the Leader of the House, the only course open to the Members is to move a vote of no-confidence against him in the party meeting with the permission of the Parliamentary Board. So if the hon. Members had approached the Parliamentary Board and exercised their right they have not made any breach of rules or done anything in contravention of the constitutional procedure. If need be, I can disclose the correspondence that passed between me and the Congress Parliamentary Board in this matter. In fact vote of no-confidence was not sponsored by the party but Mr Sachar himself resigned the leadership of the Congress Party. By his resignation from the leadership of Congress Assembly Party he was deemed to have resigned from the Premiership of the Province. Under these circumstances it was imperative for the Members of the Party to elect their

[Premier]
Leader. Sir, It will be remembered that on April 6, 1949, Shri Sachar headed those who sponsored a vote of no-confidence against me in the Committee Room of the Assembly. It was not necessary to obtain the permission of the Parliamentary Board then. At that time when I found that Members did not want me, I resigned of my own accord and participated in the meeting instead of keeping away. Not only that, but at the meetings when Shri Sachar was elected Leader I congratulated him and handed over the charge to him. But now when Mr. Sachar has resigned, he should have also behaved like a faithful colleague. It would have been something else if he had approached the Parliamentary Board with the grievance that the Members had not behaved honestly with him, and had laid his case before the Parliamentary Board. But he behaved in some other manner and I would not like to go further in this matter.

Now I would like to mention something about the charge that he has levelled against his colleagues in the Cabinet. He has said that his colleagues did not support him. But I would like to point out that in the course of his speech Mr. Sachar has himself confessed that every Minister gave him the best co-operation and that the Cabinet worked very well. We are not amongst those people who give statements in the press and divulge cabinet secrets. *Interruptions*) (*Noise*)

Mr. Speaker : Order, order.

Premier : Sir, the question of legislation for tenants never came up for decision in the Cabinet. It continued to be on the agenda but no one ever pressed for that item being taken up. If Shri Sachar was so keen about it as he professed to be, why did he not care to prepare a draft of a legislative measure for being placed before the House ? Perhaps Mr. Sachar does not know that a bill is to be introduced before the House and not an Ordinance. Being a Minister and under the oath of secrecy, I cannot divulge the secrets discussed in the Cabinet. But I regret to say that Mr. Sachar in a press interview said that some Ministers opposed tenancy legislation. This fact alone showed the actual state of affairs.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : The Ministers are there.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member will have a right for personal explanation

Premier : Sir I am not one of those who would not work in co-operation with his Leader. I would say that Mr. Sachar was himself confessed not only here but on several other occasions outside this House that we gave him the best co-operation during this period. I would now refer to the charge levelled against me by Mr. Sachar regarding the refusal by Ministers of my group to tender their resignation when called upon to do so. I wish Shri Sachar had laid the whole correspondence on the table of the House so that it could be known what position we took up at that time.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I am prepared to release it to the press.

Premier : That should be laid on the table of the House.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I will place it on the table. On a point of order, Sir. Will you permit me to place it on the table of the House tomorrow ?

Sardar Swaran Singh : Is that a point of order ?

Premier : Sir, we said that we would be guided by the direction of the Parliamentary Board. I may submit that we can approach the press with the permission of the Parliamentary Board. But Mr. Sachar is a man of independent views and I am a humble soldier of the Congress on this post of duty and am under discipline of the Parliamentary Board. When the Parliamentary Board asked me to nominate a man of my own choice for inclusion in the Cabinet I did so in consultation with the Parliamentary Board and accordingly submitted the name of Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa. The former leader agreed to our inclusion in the Cabinet in the presence of the Members of the Parliamentary Board and if he did not want us, he could have refused to include us in the Cabinet It was not I who went to him to beg for my inclusion in the Cabinet. He knows it that I was included when he himself had approved the suggestion that a composite Ministry be formed in East Punjab. But at the same time it was Mr. Sachar who wrote to the Parliamentary Board that composite Cabinet experiment had failed. It is not for me but for the Parliamentary Board to testify the veracity of my statement. I may also point out that I have to give a reply to the statement made by the hon. Member and not to make it as a subject for discussion. According to the rules of procedure, the Minister who resigns can make a statement of the political position which has led to his resignation and cannot adopt debating attitude while making such a statement before the House. Such a controversy is against the rules of procedure and I would not like to make a breach of these rules.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : A bit slowly please.

Mr. Speaker ; Order, order.

Premier : Sir, mention has been made of holding investigations by the High Court or the Judges of the Federal Court. There is no such question before me at present. But I may assure the House that I am not one of those who would set aside the decisions and policy of the former Government. I would certainly not ask the Secretaries of the Government to disregard instructions issued by that Government.

Shri Kedar Nath Sehgal : Is not the hon. Premier giving out secrets of the Government ?

Premier: In case I am giving out any secrets the hon. Member can have recourse to all constitutional or unconstitutional steps against me. I am trying to explain myself in my own way. Referring to the demand for a judicial Commission I again say that I shall not object to it in case it be permissible to appoint one under the rules. I am not at all afraid of it. I have already told the Parliamentary Board that in case there is something that this House or the Government can do in this matter, it will certainly be done. However, if it is the Congress Party which is competent to do this work ---I personally think that this party is in a position to handle the situation, it will be asked to do the needful. I have far greater regard for the Party or the Parliamentary Board than a judicial Commission. According to my lights it is in the fitness of things that the Party affairs should be brought before the Parliamentary Board. I would therefore request my hon. Friends kindly to go to the Parliamentary Board and substantiate the charges against me if they have any. But if they do not approve of this order, they are at liberty to do anything that they think fit.

Sir, it has been said that some members did not keep company with my hon. Friend for some reasons. I have in a way replied to this charge already. But I am inclined to re-iterate that if a majority of hon. Members. who are as hon. as any Member in this House wish to do things in a certain way, why should it not find favour with the minority ? The decisions of a minority cannot be thrust on the House in any case. A lot has been said about the steel scandal cases. I do not mean to say anything in this connection as the matter is sub-judice. But when the courts have given their judgments I shall place before the House a detailed account of the declarations made, the inquiries held and a statement of the expenditure involved in this connection. I shall tell the House as to what justice has been done and to what extent the black market has been discovered. These cases will be allowed to take their normal course. I shall do everything in my power to put a stop to the third degree methods employed by the police and shall not tolerate any officer of a doubtful character in this Department. Here I have no mind to anticipate anything, but there is no harm if I say that the Anti-corruption Committee did much more work in 1948-49 when I was its president or for that matter when my hon. friend Sardar Partap Singh was the president than it has done now in the past few months . We do not work only for the sake of power. We have been doing and shall continue to do our duty like soldiers. However, I shall at the proper time, in case the House so desires and considers it appropriate, place before the hon. Members all facts for the investigation of which my hon. Friend has asked for a Judicial Commission. My hon. Friend has spoken of the Advocate General. I purposely refrain from bringing his person into discussion as that officer has no opportunity to defend himself in this House. It will certainly be improper on my part to accuse an officer in this House as he will not be in a position to refute the allegations made here. But my hon. Friend Mr. Sachar will recall that when he raised this question in the Party meeting, I plainly told him there and told him again that whatever I had said, was perfectly correct.

Sir, it is true that under a democratic system of Government if a majority requires some of the office bearers to relinquish charge of their offices, they should do so. But so far I am not aware of any thing that we have been guilty of. The only thing that has been said against us is that we refused to vote in favour of the confidence motion. Here I shall not be divulging a secret if I say that my reply to the former Premier was that I could give him an answer or a resignation after I had consulted the Parlimentary Board as I had been included in the Cabinet under the orders of that Board. I could not act contrary to the wishes of the Parliamentary Board.

Sir, it has been indirecty suggested that I had been all along sure of support and shelter from some quarters. That is surely true. But that support and shelter came from my companions who were willing to repose their trust in me. I shall certainly not misuse that support like others who may even go to the extent of defying the orders of the Parliamentary Board.

In the end, I wish to emphasise that it was quite wrong and untrue for my hon. Friend to say that people left him merely for the sake of gaining some personal ends. There is absolutly no truth in this allegation. Through you, Sir, I wish to tell this House and the people at large who are our real masters that the charges against us are utterly false and have no foundation whatsoever. With these words Sir, I thank you for affording me an apportunity to give a personal explanation. (*Cheers.*)

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Sir, during the course of his statement my hon. Friend Shri Bhim Sen Sachar said that I was one of the members who formerly supported him, but subsequently withdrew the support. It is true that when I did not agree with the policy of his Government, I ceased to support him.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Has the hon. Member any right to introduce those matters in the course of his personal explanation which were not referred to in the statement which occasioned that personal explanation ?

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member is permitted to make a personal statement only if any reference was made about him. Moreover he should restrict himself only to that point about which a reference was made and should not go beyond that.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Shri Bhim Sen Sachar stated that at first I supported him but later on ceased doing so. I withdrew my support because I did not agree with the policy adopted by him.

Mr. Speaker : Was the hon. Member named ?

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Yes, Sir, the hon. Member named me. I admit that I stopped supporting him. It was with Gyani Kartar Singh's and my support that he became the Premier.

[Ch. Kartar Singh]

It is true that I requested him not to transfer the Superintendent of Police, Hoshiarpur, to another district because he was an experienced and senior officer and had done very useful work in restoring law and order. He had not hesitated in suspending a number of Sub Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police for doing wrongful deeds. Moreover, his transfer had been odered on the suggestion of an hon. Member who had been giving shelter to Communist workers. I pointed out to Shri Bhim Sen Sachar that if Mr. Bindra was transferred from Hoshiarpur, those persons who had been telling people that his transfer would not be advisable, would cut a sorry figure.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much for all this.

Premier: May I ask the hon. Member whether he was also a member of the Advisory Board set up by the Ex-Premier?

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: Yes, Sir, I was a member of that Advisory Board and requested the ex-Premier in that capacity.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: On a point of personal explanation.

Mr. Speaker: Was hon. Member's name mentioned by the hon. Minister resigning ?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: I never mentioned his name.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: I brought it to your notice at the proper time, Sir, that as certain interests were being attacked without the charges being substantiated, I should be given an opportunity to clear the position.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member can be permitted to make a personal explanation only if any reference was made about him. He cannot be allowed to speak on general remarks.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: This is against the———

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member should resume his seat.

HOURS OF SITTING ON 25-10-1949.

Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : I move—

> That on Tuesday, 25th October 1949, the Assembly shall meet at 10-30 a. m. and shall adjourn at 1-30. p. m. or earlier if the business set down in the List of Business is completed.

Sir, I hoped that we would be able to finish the work to-day. I did not desire that a meeting should be held tomorrow also, but as the work has not been completed, it has been necessary to bring this motion. As the work will be finished tomorrow and the hon. Members who might desire to leave for their homes on the same day may do so, it has been proposed that the meeting be held from 10-30 a. m. to 1-30 p. m.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That on Tuesday, 25th October 1949, the Assembly shall meet at 10-30 a. m. and shall adjourn at 1-30 p. m. or earlier if the business set down in the List of Business is completed.

The motion was carried

EVACUEE PROPERTY (ADMINISTRATON) BILL

Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, when discussion on the motion for consideration of the East Punjab Evacuee Property (Administration) Bill was taking place last time, it was submitted that it was essential to pass the Bill pending legislation on the subject by the Central Government. Now that the Government of India has issued an Ordinance, it is no longer necessary to proceed with this measure. I, therefore, beg leave that the consideration of the Bill may not be proceeded with.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the East Punjab Evacuee Property (Administration) Bill be withdrawn.

The motion was carried.

DISPLACED PERSONS (LAND RESETTLEMENT) BILL

Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : I introduce the East Punjab Displaced Persons (Land Resettlement) Bill.

Premier (*Hindustani*) : I move—

That the East Punjab Displaced Persons (Land Resettlement) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sir, as the hon. Members of this House know land is being allotted and in most cases allotment chits have been issued. This Bill was not brought earlier as it was hoped to complete the work of settlement by now. As there has been some delay in the work, it is necessary to pass this Bill. With these words I move that the East Punjab Displaced Persons (Land Resettlement) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Displaced Persons (Land Resettlement) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sardar Sajjan Singh (Patti, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Mr. Speaker, I wish to place my views regarding this Bill before the House. The Government propose to obtain certain powers under this Bill. The Government has already acquired wide powers in connection with evacuee property. When these powers are used, many mal-practices come to light. It means that the Government acquires powers but no attention is paid to their being properly

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

used. Due to want of proper supervision over the use of these powers many evils come into existence. The Government is already in possession of vast powers relating to evacuee property. In reply to one of my questions, the Parliamentary Secretary stated that the evacuee property was not distributed. In this connection I wish to tell you about the case of the motor car of Rana Abdul Hamid Khan of Rahon.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is the Government at all capable of exercising the powers acquired by them ?

Premier : This Government is quite capable. It does not consist of renegades.

Mr. Speaker : This is not the stage for discussing that. The hon. Member can discuss this at the third reading stage.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : I only wish to submit that the Government should exercise its powers properly and should keep supervision over the officers who have to use them.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That the East Punjab Displaced Persons (Land Resettlement) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The Bill will now be considered clause by clause.

Clause 1

Sub-clause 2

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That sub-clause (2) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 2

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : I move—

That for paragraph (a) the following be substituted:—
(a) 'the Principal Ordinance' means the Administration of Evacuee Property Ordinance. 1949.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh :

That in paragraph (i) for the word "Act" the word "Ordinance" be substituted.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Ajit Singh : I move—

That in paragraph (e) line 1, between the words "a" and "person" the word "displaced" be inserted.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clauses 3 and 4

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 3 and 4 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 5

Sardar Ajit Singh (*Punjabi*) : I move—

That in sub-clause 2, lines 5 to 7, for the words "Rabi 1950 or till such date————————is later" the words "be liable to pay eight times the land revenue in addition to the cesses for the time being in force or customary batai at his option to be decided mutually with the new allottee or lessee at the time of entering into constructive possession for Rabi 1950 and after" be substituted.

Sir, my purpose in bringing forth this amendment is that the displaced persons who have come from the West Punjab should get the lands on permanent basis as early as possible. This will not only ensure their own livelihood but will also help in solving the food problem of the country to some extent. The displaced persons will thus be able to make good, to some extent at least the loss of their wealth in Pakistan. I know the Government has been making efforts all along to effect the permanent allotment of land. But due to certain legal and constitutional difficulties the matter hasbeen considerably delayed. The public too has been feeling agitated on account of this fact. So the Government after all decided to make the permanent allotment of land with effect from the Kharif Crop. An allottee, according to this Ordinance, shall be deemed to have entered into constructive possession, of the land allotted to him with effect from Kharif, 1949, but he shall not be entitled to take actual possession of land at that time. It was, therefore decided that the present holder would pay rent equal to two-and-a-half times the land revenue in addition to other cases in force, to the allottee of the land. This decision was arrived at on account of the objection of some people that all the rent realised from evacuee property would go into the funds of the Custodian of Evacuee property The rent, therefore, was fixed at two-and-a-half times the land revenue and the present holders of land were not required to give batai to the allottees. Now the circumstances have greatly changed. In six districts out of twelve, the quasi permanent allotment of land is almost complete and the allotment orders have also been issued. It is expected that all this land allotment will be completed in November next. The possession of such land on which no crop is standing will be given on the first of December, 1949. In this connection, I would like to submit that there are persons living in camps and at other places, who have

[Sardar Ajit Singh].
yet got no land, although they owned large areas in the West Punjab. For instance, there is a gentleman of the Amritsar district who possessed thousands of bighas of land in the West Punjab, but has not been allotted any land so far. Similarly there are people who have, at present, gone out of the province for earning their livelihood. They are eagerly looking forward to their getting the land which will be allotted to them. Those people will be able to get the actual possession of land on which no crop is standing on the 1st December, 1949 and they shall be entitled to two-and-a-half times the land revenue for Rabi 1950, wherever such crops are sown by the present holders. This decision of the Government, I think, is not quite wise and far-sighted. It was decided by the party in its meeting held at Ambala on the 19th instant that the possessions of land to the new allottees would be given after the Rabi 1950 and they would be entitled to two-and-a-half times the land revenue as rent for the same. It means that they will actually get the possession of the land allotted to them sometime after May 1950. Thus they will have to wait for six months more. It is, therefore, necessary that this clause of the Bill under consideration should be amended. It will help the people who hold no or very little land to earn something for themselves in the coming six months and the present holders will also not be much affected thereby. If the people who are now living in camps and at other places are entitled to get batai or eight times the land revenue instead of two-and-a-half times as rent for the land allotted to them, they can also earn something for themselves and their families.

The allottees should get at least some advantage out of the lands that have been allotted to them, so that by the time they get complete possession of the lands allotted to them, they are enabled to stand on their own feet. At present the plight of the refugees is miserable, many are rotting in camps. We should treat it as a sort of relief measure that the rent of the land they received be made eight times the land revenue or that the present holders should give customary batai to them, so that with the help of this amount the allottees may be able to sow the lands that are at present lying uncultivated and which they expect to get by 1st of December this year. This will in fact be a great step in the direction of growing more food and moreover the allottees will be settled. I am sure this amendment will help them to a great extent. The possession of that land which is at present lying without any crops will be taken over by the allottees and the new lessees. The resources of these people should be strengthened so that they may be able to stand on their legs and undertake the work of cultivation in right earnest as soon as possible. In many of the districts, land is lying without being brought under cultivation and where the land has been leased to the local population, their only interest in it is to get the most out of it without in any way trying to keep it in a proper state. So the policy of the Government should be to let the allottees have possession of such lands at an early date and in cases where it is not possible to do so, eight times land revenue or the customary batai should be paid to the new lessees or the allottees. With these words, I hope this amendment will find favour with the hon. Members.

Mr. Speaker : Clause under consideration, amendment moved-

> That in sub-clause 2 lines 5 to 7 for the words 'Rabi 1950 or till such date---------is later 'the words ' be liable to pay eight times the land revenue in addition to the cesses for the time being in force or customary batai at his option to be decided mutually with the new allottee or lessee at the time of entering into constructive possession for Rabi 1950 and after ' be substituted.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing, Sialkot, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, being myself a refugee I ought to support this amendment but since I fully understand the background and know the conditions under which the original clause, 'that the present lessee will have to pay only 2½ times land revenue', was included, I will be failing in my duty if I do not acquaint this House with all the facts. Since the temporary allotment of land to the displaced land owners was to be replaced by quasi permanent allotment, nobody was sure as to which land he was getting and it was feared that due to this uncertainty, nobody would plough but the need of the time was that people should get the lands tilled and sown so that food production might not fall. It was generally believed at the time that the people would not retain these lands permanently. So, in the beginning people were reluctant to till these lands. It was considered necessary to give such assurances to the farmers as may ensure production. After a good deal of discussion, it was decided that somehow or other a sense of security was needed for the cultivators. So, such conditions were imposed which were favourable to the cultivators. Two and a half times of land Revenue was decided upon. The decision was widely made known to the public and an Ordinance to this effect was issued. Now to vary the conditions at this time would be unjust. We should stick to the earlier decision.

Premier : I think it was for kharif only.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : It was generally believed that it was for Rabi as well as for Kharif. Anyhow, at this time the earlier decision should stand. The people will claim that the conditions imposed and agreed upon should not be altered now. If we now vary them it will only give rise to disputes. In such a state of affairs it is only the lawyers who will get an advantage. The Government has once made a declaration to this effect. An Ordinance was also issued in this respect. So how can it now go back upon it ? Moreover, in sub-section 2 of section 5 these are the words "unless another rate has been, or is specified in this behalf." These words should be carefully noted. A rate i.e., 2½ times land revenue, was specified and fixed in this behalf and we cannot make any change now. It will only give rise to unnecessary disputes and the result will be that people will not till the lands and the sowing of rabi crop will suffer to a large extent. At present, in my opinion nobody is sitting idle. Everyone is engaged in cultivation. So under the circumstances as they are we should not unnecessarily create insecurity and complications.

[Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa]

There is no denying the fact that when the present possessors were asked to carry on the cultivation of their present holdings it was done so on the clear understanding that they would be required to pay rent equal to two-and-a-half times the land revenue. It would not, therefore, be advisable for the Government to back out of their plighted word at this moment when those people have almost half finished their cultivation and sowing. As a matter of fact, the Government is both morally and legally bound by those earlier assurances which it held out to the land-holders. Under the circumstances, the demand for a rent equal to eight times the land revenue would certainly result in unnecessary litigation Consequently both the landholders and the Government would be put to financial loss and there will be a considerable fall in the food-grains production. I would, therefore, request the mover of the amendment to revise his decision and also request the House to come to a decision in the matter after fully taking into consideration the facts that I have put before them. The mover would be well advised to withdraw it.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang (Ex member West Punjab Assembly representing Lyallpur East, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I rise to support the amendment put forward by my hon. Friend Sardar Ajit Singh. It goes without saying that there are thousands of displaced zamindars who are still lying in the camps and waiting for the allotment of lands. They also expect that some compensation will be paid to them with a view to helping them in their resettlement. Now if rent equal to 2½ times the land reveune is to be realised from the present landholders, how will it be possible for the Government to help these poor allotees who have to take possession of the lands for the first time ? Well, Sir, if you just refer to clause 6 of the Bill, you will find that a portion of the rent is to be appropriated towards the payment of land revenue and cesses and another towards meeting fees and other expenses incurred by the Custodian and the balance is to be paid to the allottee. It will thus appear that very little will be left for the allottee to resettle himself. Besides, if he is to get possession of the land late in May 1950, when the Rabbi crops will have been harvested and he is not paid batai even, how will he be able to resettle himself ? It will take six months before his land will yield anything and he is enabled to eke out his living. The Government had proposed to help such allottees by advancing loans for the purpose of resettlement and purchasing bullocks etc, because it expected to receive substantial financial help from the Centre. But now it has become well nigh impossible to do so as the Central Government has, for want of funds resulting from financial stringency and devaluation of rupee, expressed its inability to help us in this matter. In view of this, I think that the poor allottees should not be deprived of their legitimate right of getting proper compensation. I need not say that the present landholders who have been paying rent only equal to 2½ times the land revenue so far, have derived rich profits from the crops which they harvested during the last two years. If they are now asked to pay rent at the proposed rate, namely 8 times the land revenue, they should do so ungrudgingly and willingly. They should be prepared to give the poor allottees their due share and enable them to resettle themselves. I would, therefore, urge the House to accept the amendment moved by Sardar Ajit Singh.

Sardar Ujjal Singh (Ex-member West Punjab Assembly representing Western Towns, Sikh, Urban) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I have stood up to oppose the amendment now before the House. My hon. Friend Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa has adduced very cogent and forceful arguments to show that no useful purpose would be served by accepting the amendment. The matter of charging rent from the present landholders was thoroughly discussed and considered by the Government before it was fixed at a rate equal to 2½ times the land revenue I feel that Government's backing out of its plighted word would cause great resentment in the minds of the present land-holders. Then it has been stated that the object of this amendment is to help the refugees still living in the camps and waiting for the allotment of lands. I may tell my hon. Friends that the number of such zamindars who are to be benefitted by this measure is negligibly small. At the most 0.2 or 0.5 per cent of the camp population will be affected and at the same time the area which is to be allotted to them is extremely small. So it will not be advisable for the Government to cause hardship to a very large number of the present land-holders. So far as they are concerned, even now, after payment of rent equal to 2½ times the land revenue, very little is left with them to make both ends meet. Besides, it needs no mentioning that Government had to experience difficulty in realising the rent from tbe land-holders even at the present rate. The offices of the Government were flooded with applications from the land-holders requesting exemptions from the payment of this high rent or some reduction in it, because they were not able to pay it. But how has the Government reacted to their request ? Instead of giving them any help in this matter, they are enhancing the rate of rent from 2½ to 8 times the land-revenue. Obviously, this increased rate will have an adverse effect on the shattered economy of the Province. Apart from this, realisation of rent will become all the more difficult. It is no wonder that fracas may occur and disputes may arise at the time of collection and thus peace may be disturbed. Secondly, no incentive will be left for the present land-holders to cultivate their lands, and thus production of food-grains would be seriously hampered. At present, we have permitted them to sow rabi crops on the understanding that they would be required to pay rent equal to 2½ times the land revenue. When they come to know of the increased rate of rent as proposed in the amendment under discussion, they would be disposed to relax their efforts to grow more food, or totally abandon cultivation of their lands. We are already experiencing acute shortage of foodgrains but the proposed enhanced rate of rent would accentuate the situation still more and as I have already stated, much of the land would go out of cultivation. Government would, therefore, be well-advised to be more careful in taking any hasty step which they may have to retrace after some bitter experience. I would also sound a note of warning that the acceptance of this amendment would definitely result in the abandonment of cultivation of lands for rabi crops, and the loss in production of foodgrains would be greater than the benefit which is expected to accrue to the Government by adopting this amendment. It should be withdrawn by the mover or the House should throw it out.

Sardar Udham Singh (Amritsar Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I feel that when Government has already decided to charge rent

[Sardar Udham Singh]
from the present landholders at the rate equal to 2½ times the land revenue, there appears to be no justification for changing horses in mid-stream. It does not behove the Government to change its mind and raise the rent from 2½ to 8 times the land revenue. Besides, when an understanding has been given to the landholder by the Government that he should cultivate the land on certain specified conditions, it is legally unjust and unfair to alter the terms and enhance the rate of rent. This would tantamount to putting additional burden on the poor landholders, I think they do not deserve the treatment as is envisaged in the amendment under discsusion. They rather deserve more help and sympathy from us. But what has the Government done ? Instead of effecting any reduction in their present burden, they are adding to their financial difficulties. I think there is no law which admits of any enhancement in the rate of rent already fixed by the Government. I am sure the acceptance of the amendment would result in a strong resentment among the landholders and there is every likelihood of serious disputes arising out of this action.

Then one of my hon. Friends remarked that the land-holders should be asked to pay the customary 'batai' to the allottees if they do not like to pay rent at the increased rate. May I ask him why they should accept this proposition particularly when they have been given an understanding to pay rent equal to 2½ times the land revenue ? Does he mean to say that a person who leases out his land on certain terms should, when he finds that the lessee is making good profits from the land, ask him to pay more than the stipulated rent ? Is there any law which can compel the lessee to pay more than what has already been agreed upon ? I don't think so. Similarly, the Government can under no law charge a higher rate of rent. I hope Government would be well-advised not to press for this amendment.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lyallpur and Jhang, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I find that according to the Land Revenue Manual the land revenue realisable from the landholders has been fixed at 25 per cent of the gross produce. Now if the amendment proposed by Sardar Ajit Singh is accepted, the implication is that the income of landholder would be wiped out. In other words, increased rate of rent, namely, 8 times the land revenue, would hit them hard and no incentive would be left for them to cultivate the land. It is common knowledge that we are experiencing an acute shortage of foodgrains and we are making every endeavour to give a fillip to the grow-more food campaign. But the proposed amendment would adversely affect our efforts. I, therefore, lend my strong support to what has fallen from the lips of my hon. Friends, Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa, Sardar Ujjal Singh and Sardar Udham Singh, in opposing the acceptance of the amendment under consideration.

Sant Narindar Singh (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Montgomery East, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I quite agree with the remarks made by my hon. Friends, Sardar Ujjal Singh and Sardar Udham Singh, in the course of their speeches in regard to the amendment now before the House. If this amendment is carried or in other words if the present holders of land would be asked to pay rent equal to 8 times the land revenue, I am sure this will have very bad effects. Since the present holders have been promised that they would have to pay rent equal to 2½ times the land revenue only, I do not find any justification on the part of the hon. Member to move such an amendment. I would therefore suggest to Sardar Ajit Singh to withdraw the amendment now before the House.

Jathedar Sardar Man Singh (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Sheikhupura West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Sir, I wish to submit that our Government or in other words the Congress Government has already promised that the present holders of the land would be liable to pay rent equal to 2½ times the land revenue. Kharif crop has already been sown and the cultivators are looking forward to harvest it. They have yet to sow the rabi. If the Government does not fulfil the promise already held out to them, I am afraid they may not co-operate with it. It is therefore necessary that the Government should fulfil its promise. In my opinion, my hon. Friend Sardar Ujjal Singh and Sardar Udham Singh have stated the facts so far as the amendment now before the House is concerned, and I fully subscribe to their views.

Sardar Ajit Singh (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing South-West Punjab, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, I wish to submit that I discussed the whole matter with the Financial Commissioner and he advised me that the rent should be equal to 6 times the land revenue. But I thought it better to have 8 times instead of 6 times as advised by him, I am really constrained to remark that those who have already grabbed land are very anxious that the rent should be equal to 2½ times or at the most 3 times the land revenue.

Sardar Udham Singh : Land should be taken back from those to whom it has been allotted on the basis of recommendations.

Sardar Ajit Singh : The hon. Member was all powerful when recommendations only counted.

Sardar Udham Singh : At that time too the hon. Member was working as a Parliamentary Secretary.

Mr. Speaker : No insinuations, please.

Sardar Ajit Singh : There is no doubt about it and my hon. Friends will agree with me on the point that those refugee brethren who are not in possession of land are at present rotting in the camps. It really ill-behoves my hon. Friends to say that

[Sardar Ajit Singh]

those refugee brethren who are at present rotting in the camps are using soap etc., and are thus enjoying luxurious lives and are at the same time getting rations free of any cost. After all, what have they done? Have they not sufferred? Have they not made big sacrifices? Should they be denied even what little is due to them? It is an open secret that Government feels itself in duty bound to afford maximum facilities to them in connection with their rehabilitation. Despite the fact that the hon. Premier has made it abundantly clear on more occasions than one that top priority is to be given to rehabilitation problems, much has not been done. Under the circumstances, the remarks about the luxurious way of living of our refugee brethren at present stationed in the camps, made by my hon. Friends, seem to be quite unjustified. The hon. Members should withdraw these words. I would like to ask my hon. Friends whether we would not be doing grave injustice to those refugee brethren to whom land would be leased after six months and who would not be earning anything till they get the actual possession of land, if we do not support the amendment already moved by me. After detailed discussion with the Secretary of the Department I was advised by him that the rent should be made equal to 6 times the land revenue. I do feel that rent equal to 8 times the land revenue is too much and I, therefore, suggest that it should be 6 times. It is not fair and just to charge 2½ times only as provided in the Bill.

Further it has been said that the amendment, if carried, would hamper the progress of, "Grow More Food" Campaign. Here I cannot do without quoting some figures in connection with the production of wheat and rice. This year we would be able to produce 2,50,000 bags of rice in comparison with 150,000 bags produced last year. Our refugee brethren who are at present without any land and are living in the camps, have been repeatedly asking us to allot land to them so that they may step up food production in the province. They have also been assuring us that they would be able to produce maximum quantity of wheat and rice in the province. They have also been telling us that it would be regrettable and shameful (sharmnak) on their part if they would not produce the maximum quantity of foodgrains.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is not the word "sharm" unparliamentary?

Mr. Speaker: "Sharm" is not a parliamentary word.

Sardar Ajit Singh: I would therefore request the hon. Premier to accept the amendment now before the House.

Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I rise to say a few words in reply to the remarks made by some of my hon. Friends in the course of their speeches. In my opinion, if the proposed amendment is carried, there should be no scope for any doubt whatsoever in their minds about it. At the

time of promulgating the Ordinance, we were under the impression that we would be able to give the actual possession of land to allottees or lessees after the kharif 1949 and that they would enter into its constructive possession earlier. But after some time we experienced that this work would take much time and would not be finished earlier as we hoped. It was, therefore, decided to continue giving them the constructive possession. It was also decided that the actual possession would be given to them after the rabi harvest. It is provided in the Bill that they would be entitled to take the actual possession of land of the present holders on which no crop is standing. So far as the rabi harvest is concerned, it is estimated that at most places the income of the present holders would increase manifold. It is therefore in the fitness of things that the present holders should be made liable to pay more rent. Our refugee brethren who are at present living in camps and who have not been allotted land so far have earned nothing in comparison with the present holders who do not stand to lose even if the proposed amendment is carried. It should be remembered that the present holders who have to pay the proposed rent, would also receive their rent at the time of getting the actual possession of land at some other place. It is clear from this that if they have to pay the rent at one place, they will also receive rent at some other place where land would be allotted to them. They would thus be decidedly better off than those who are at present living in the camps and who will have to wait till they get the actual possession of land. Moreover the system of supplying free rations would be stopped from 31st October. If they had been allotted land, they would have been able to reap the rabi harvest. But now they have to wait till they get the actual possession. It will, therefore, be well nigh impossible for them to make both ends meet till kharif and rabi harvests are over, or in other words till they get the actual possession of land. Under the circumstances, rent equal to 8 times the land revenue instead of 2½ times as provided in the Bill, is being proposed with a view to doing some justice and showing some sympathy towards those refugee brethren who are at present living in the camps and who have not so far been allotted any land, whatsoever. Further, I wish to point out that if the House is of the opinion that the rent as proposed in the amendment moved by my hon. Friend Sardar Ajit Singh is too much, I have no objection if it is brought down to 4 or 5 times the land revenue. But at the same time, I would like to remind my hon. Friends to do some justice to our refugee brethren at present residing in the camps. If this is not done, I am sure they would be faced with many difficulties. Here I wish to bring this point home to them that at the time of getting the actual possession, they would not be possessing the necessary equipment for cultivating the land which would be allotted to them. They need bullocks, iron implements etc., for bringing their land under cultivation. They cannot afford to purchase these and there would be no alternative left to them except procuring loans. Moreover they will have to take loans for purchasing their rations and other essential commodities. They wouldthus be over-burdened with liabilities and it would be well nigh impossible for them to bear this burden.

Indented 6. P. M.

[Premier]

people who are eligible for as much land under the new allotment as they are now holding, do not stand to lose anything. They will pay rent for the land they are now holding but as proposed in sub-section (c) of section 6, they will also be entitled to receive a good share of the rent realised from the holders of the land which they are now going to be allotted, as soon as they take its possession.

Sardar Ujjal Singh : But they cannot be sure of getting as much of cultivated land under the new allotment as they are holding at present.

Premier : How does that matter ? If the present holder has not culivated any portion of his land, the Government will not exempt him from payment of rent. So the new allottee does not stand to lose anything, even if he is allotted land which was not cultivated by the previous allottee. So far as the present allottees are concerned, this will act as a deterrent and they will not leave any portion of land uncultivated.

Now, Sir, may I ask the hon. Members of this House if it would be fair not to charge reasonable rent from those who have been enjoying the benefits of good land all the time, even though they were entitled to land of inferior type ? Is it not fair that those who have been holdiug inferior land, even though they were entitled to 'A' grade land should, when given the right type of land under the new allotment, have with them something to start with ? Then there are hundreds of people living in camps, who were entitled to get land but who have not so far been allotted any land. This provision has been made chiefly in the interests of such people. The Government desires that when they are put in possession of land, they should have some money to purchase the wherewithal necessary for agricultural purposes and thinks it quite fair to realise this amount from those who have been holding that land and enjoying the benefits accuring from it. I admit that the proposed provision can never be liked by those who are at present holding more land than is their due and who, therefore, do not hope to get as much land under the new allotment scheme, or those who are holding land of better quality say 'A' class, but are not actually entitled to it. That such persons should feel worried over this provision, is easily understandable. But I think such persons should not mind making a little sacrifice for those unfortunate people who are absolutely destitute and are still living in camps. In my opinion, realisation of rent equal to two and a half times the land revenue, will not serve any useful purpose. So the rent to be charged from the present holders must be eight times the land revenue. If those hon. Members who are opposing this amendment are themselves in charge of the Bill, they too would press for increasing it.

Sardar Ujjal Singh : Eight times is too much.

Premier : Then fix it; as you like.

Sardar Ujjal Singh : Let it be three times the land revenue.

Premier : I can't see my way to agreeing to an amount less than 4 times the land revenue. (*Voices* All right.)

I move-

That for the word "eight" in the proposed amendment, the word "four" be substituted.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

That in sub-clause (2) lines 5 to 7, for the words "Rabi 1950 or till such date-----is later", the words "be liable to pay four times the land revenue in addition to the cesses for the time being in force or customary batai at his option to be decided mutually with the new allottee or lessee at the time of entering into constructive possession for Rabi 1950 and after" be substituted.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 6 to 15

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That clauses 6 to 15 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 1

Sub-clause (1)

Mr. Speaker : Question is-

That sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Title

Mr. Speaker : Question is---

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Premier : I move---

That the East Punjab Displaced Persons (Land Resettlement) Bill, as amended be passed.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved----

That the Esat Punjab Displaced Persons (Land Resettlement) Bill, as amended, be passed.

Sardar Sajjan Singh (Patti, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Mr. Speaker, before this Bill is enacted into law, I would like to make a submission. It is this. Bills of similar nature passed before have not been acted upon properly. The past experience shows that the powers assumed by the Government have not been used in a proper manner. For instance, through the Evacuee Property (Administration) Act, the Government——.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member is not relevant. He should restrict himself to the application of the Bill in so far as it relates to the displaced persons.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : So I was saying that the powers assumed by the Government are not put to proper use. Not to speak of the subordinate officers, even the highly responsible officers and Ministers do not hesitate to infringe the provisions of law.

Mr. Speaker : If the hon. Member wants to say anything against any Minister, he can bring in a substantive motion.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : My intention is to draw the attention of the Government to the mistakes committed in the past. The Evacuee Property (Administration) Act, which was placed on the Statute Book for the benefit of displaced persons——

Mr. Speaker : There is a difference between an "evacuee" and a "displaced person".

Sardar Sajjan Singh : What I mean to say is that the provisions made by the Government in connection with the administration of Evacuee Property have not been fully acted upon. Therefore, we want an assurance from the Government that the powers taken under this Bill are used in a proper manner. During the debate on the Bill referred to by me it was stated that houses left by Muslims contained so much living space that no more than a few square feet could fall to the share of each refugee. In spite of this, the interests of the refugees have been sacrificed and huge bungalows have been allotted to their own friends. A house which could accommodate three hundred has been alloted to a single individual. For instance, Sardar Kabul Singh has been----

Mr. Speaker : I would ask the hon. Member not to be personal. He has given notice of half a dozen questions on this subject. If he still stresses this point, he will lose the force of his arguments.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Sir, the fact is that the Government does not implement its legislative measures in a satisfactory manner.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member can bring in a substantive motion.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Sir, I would ask the Government that before asking for such powers under this Act, it should devote its attention to set its administration in order. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker : Order, order. Prompting is not allowed.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Sir, what I mean to say is that vast powers with regard to the allotment and leasing of evacuee land have to be conferred under this Act. So it would be necessary to see that the Government officers make use of these powers properly and that they are used in favour of the displaced persons and nobody else. I would have no objection if the allotment and lease of evacuee land is made to displaced landholders but it is certainly deplorable if the officers use such powers in favour of their kith and kin. Before such a legislation is passed it is the duty of the Government to give us assurance that these powers will be exercised in a proper way and that it will not allow any of its officers to misuse the powers conferred under this Act. The Government should remove all legitimate difficulties of displaced landholders if any are brought to its notice. I think if the Muslim property in the East Punjab had been put to auction, it would have fetched crores of rupees which could be spent for the benefit of displaced persons.

Mr. Speaker : It is not a general question in regard to the displaced persons. It relates only to allotment of lands. The definition of land is given.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Sir, what I want to submit is that the Government should exercise these powers of allotment and lease of land with due care and responsibility and for the benefit of displaced landholders only. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker : I would ask the hon. Members not to be personal. It is not desirable. If you are convassing, convass in such a way that the other persons are not influenced.

Sardar Kabul Singh : On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : What is your point of order ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Sir, I would submit that the present Bill may be passed but it would be idle to expect any benefit by this measure unless an all-out effort is made to purify the administration of the province.

Mr. Speaker : Question is-

That the East Punjab Displaced Persons (Land Resettlement) Bill, as amended, be passed.

The motion was carried.

AYURVEDIC AND UNANI PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : I introduce the East Punjab Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners (Amendment) Bill.

Premier (*Hindustani*) : I move----

That the East Punjab Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

[Premier]

Sir, it appears that some of my hon. Friends are labouring under a misapprehension with regard to this Bill. I would request them that they should not try to import extraneous matter which is not incorporated in the Bill itself. They are perhaps under the impression that the rights that have been conferred by or under this Act are now being withdrawn by this amending Bill. But I would draw their attention to the comma after the word "modern" in the Statement of Objects and Reasons which I think should remove their doubts, if any, in this respect. Their right to prescribe sulphonomides under the Indian Durgs Act will not be withdrawn under this amending Bill. The powers to withdraw such rights vest with the Central Government and that too by amending the present Act. I would, therefore, make it clear that there is no such object as directly or indirectly to take away those rights. I may assure the hon. Members that only those persons will be registered who practise in Ayurvedic and Unani system of medicine. The idea is to remove all ambiguity in the Bill. If in sub-section (2) of section 21 of the Act, for the words "Indian Systems of Medicines" the words "Ayurvedic and Unani Systems of medicine" are not substituted, it would mean that the persons who practice Indian system of medicines other than Ayurvedic and Unani system will also claim that they may also be registered under this Act. So in order to remove this ambiguity and to bring it into line with the Acts of other provinces, this amending Bill has been introduced in the House.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved–

That, the East Punjab Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I have given notice of an amendment that before consideration the Bill, be circulated for eliciting public opinion. The Leader of the House has made a speech but that cannot alter the provisions of the Bill. In this connection I would like to draw your attention to the Resolution which was unanimously passed by this House in its October, 1948 Session, which runs as follows :

This Assembly recommends to the Government to take necessary steps to remove so far as this province is concerned all disabilities suffered by National Medical Graduates of National Medical Institutions that is Medico Ayurvedic Colleges of Gurukula University, Hardwar, Hindu University, Benars, Ayurvedic and Unani Tibbi College, Delhi, D. A. V. and S. D. A. V. Colleges of Lahore, Bhupindra College, Patiala and other institutions recognised by the Board of Indian Medicines in the matter of registration and declaring them exempt from the restrictive provisions of sechdule of the Drug Rules 1945 and treat such degree and diploma holders at par with the graduates of Modern Medical Colleges consistant with the standard of efficiency.

Sir, when this Resolution was moved in this House, the hon. Premier, I mean the hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava who was also a Premier at that time, stated that the Central Government had set up a Committee to look into the systems of Ayurvedic and

Unani education and suggest ways and means of making them more useful for the public. He said that the disabilities of these systems and the prejudice in favour of the foreign system must go. He assured the House that he wonld introduce a Bill as soon as the report was submitted by the Committee which had been appo nted by the Government of India. The report was published a short time thereafter. It recommended that some knowledge of allopathy should also be made essential for those who devoted themselves to Ayurvedic and Unani education as by this way they could render better service to the patients. In view of this principle Bills were passed in the various legislatures of our Provinces. A Bill was also passed in this House in accordance with the recommendations of the committee. But it is surprising to find that the present Bill has been brought forth to amend that Act. The hon. Premier is pleased to say that the purpose of the present Bill is not what people ordinarily understand. According to him its meaning is quite different. But I say that the courts of law have not to abide by the speech of the hon. Premier or any other hon. Member of this House. They will only interpret the words of the Act and base their judgments on them. The fact of the matter is that in case we do not mean to alter the definition of the "Indian system of medicine" there is no necessity of the Bill under consideration. We should attach due importance to our National institutions like the Tibbi College at Delhi which was founded by men like Dr. Ansari and Hakim Ajmal Khan. Not only Mahatma Gandhi but even officers of the Government like the Viceroys were full of praise for that institution. It will be recalled that when the Government controlled institutions became unpopular with the people, our young men had recourse to the National Colleges and the education in these Colleges was in no way inferior to that imparted in any Government institution. But the Members of the Indian Medical Council who had obtained their degrees from England did not like the idea of giving the same facilities to Indian Vaidyas and Hakims as were enjoyed by themselves. This state of affairs had to change with the change of times and it did change. The restrictions imposed on Vaidyas and Hakims were removed in other provinces as also in this province when a Bill was passed to this effect. I think to effect a change now in the Act which has already been passed is an insult to this House. In case the

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]
House feels that it should not have passed that Bill, it should immediately repeal it. The way the definition of "Indian systems of Medicine" is being altered is uncalled for. I would request the House that it should kindly not lose sight of the fact that a very great service is being done by the Vaidyas and Hakims to the people at large. These practitioners of medicine have had to work under great difficulties and hardships as they have always been denied that respect and recognition which had been given to the M. B. B. S. doctors. In these circumstances the object of the present Bill appears to be most unfair. It seeks to give facilities only to the M. B. B. S. doctors and holders of foreign degrees and diplomas. It means to take away a concession which was once given to the practitioners of indigenous medicines by the previous Bill. It is quite a wrong step. I am in a position to say that very often the products of our National Institutions are far better than those who are educated on the western models. Many of my hon. Friends must have come across Vaidyas and Hakims who are far superior to the Civil Surgeons and highly qualified doctors. In this background I make bold to say that if we alter the definition of "Indian systems of medicine" we will be guilty of depriving our National Graduates of their just rights. I am sorry to find that the hon. Premier is not present in the House. If he here were, I would have told him that he was perhaps acting under the influence of some interested party.

Mr. Speaker : No reflections please.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, I only wish to point out that we should not take back a concession which we have once given. If there are persons who misuse this concession, Government is always in a position to take action against them. However, I suggest that if Government considers it necessary to legislate in this connection it should circulate this Bill for eliciting public opinion. The public will surely say that it should not be Left at the mercy of the doctors who are in the habit of charging heavy fees.

The Assembly then adjourned till 10-30 A. M. on Tuesday 25th October 1949.

EAST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

25th OCTOBER 1949.

Vol. IV — No. 8.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

CONTENTS

Tuesday, 25th October 1949.

PRINTED AT THE : SANATAN DHARAM PRESS, GHORA CHOWKI, SIMLA.

PRICE Rs. 2/9/-

East Punjab Legislative Assembly

Fourth Session of the 1st East Punjab Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 25th October 1949.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 10-30 a.m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (The hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

NOMINATION OF SHRI KANWAL RAJ PURI.

*1400. **Shri Virendra**: Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that the East Punjab Government have recommended the name of Shri Kanwal Raj Puri to be nominated on the Advisory Board of Rehabilitation Finance Administration in place of Shri Bhim Sen Sachar;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the reasons for which Shri Kanwal Raj Puri's name was recommended for nomination to the advisory committee of Rehabilitation Finance Administration ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) Yes.

(b) The previous Minister for Rehabilitation recommended him to the Government of India in consultation with the previous Premier.

Shri Virendra: May I know from the hon. Premier whether Shri Kanwal Raj Puri was nominated as a member on the basis of some qualifications ?

Premier: I cannot answer this question off-hand. The information asked for by the hon. Member is not contained in the papers that are at present with me. However I may add for the information of the hon. Member that Government of India asked for the names and the previous Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation recommended his name after consulting the previous Premier.

Shri Virendra: May I know whether the previous Government had recommended the names of any persons ? If so, may I know their names ?

Premier: At that time Shri Bhim Sen Sachar and Sardar Ujjal Singh were recommended by the Government.

Shri Virendra: May I know if Shri Kanwal Raj Puri was nominated after the resignation of Shri Bhim Sen Sachar ?

Premier: Shri Bhim Sen Sachar resigned from the membership after becoming the Premier. The Government of India asked for some other name to be recommeded.

Shri Virendra: May I know if any relation-ship exists between Shri Kanwal Raj Puri and Shri Bhim Sen Sachar ? If so, was he nominated because of this relation ? Was there any other reason for his being nominatad ?

Mr. Speaker: How does it come within the administrative responsibility of the Minister ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Can such an inspired question be put on the floor of this House ?

Mr. Speaker: I do not know whether the question is inspired or not.

Sardar Partap Singh: He is himself under inspiration.

Shri Virendra: Sir, I have already asked a question. I want to know whether he was nominated on the basis of some educational qualifications. May I also know whether no person except him was available in the whole of the province ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know whether any relationship with any Premier stands as a bar to being nominated ?

Premier: It is a matter of opinion.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know whether it is not a fact that Shri Kanwal Raj Puri who was nominated, happens to pay more than one lakh of rupees as income tax ?

Minister for Labour: It is not a qualification.

Mr. Speaker: The subject of income-tax does not come under the Provincial Government.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: I just wanted to show the respectability of the man who has been nominated.

Shrimati Sita Devi: May I know from the hon. Premier whether those persons who are nominated to various committees are required to possess certain special qualifications ?

Mr. Speaker : It is not relevant. Next question.

PERCOLATION WELLS FOR KANGRA DISTRICT.

*1340 **Thakur Dalip Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state:-

(a) the number of percolation wells proposed to be sunk in the Kangra District in the current year i. e. 1949-50;

(b) the number of wells actually sanctioned;

(c) the number of such wells sunk so far;

(d) whether it is a fact that so far, no well has been sunk; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

(a) 20.

(b) 20.

(c) Nil.

(d) First part. Yes.

Second Part. Taccavi at the rate of Rs. 875/-- per well has since been sanctioned to 20 cultivators for sinking these wells. Under the conditions governing the grant of taccavi, the cultivator is required to sink the well within one year from the date it is sanctioned.

CEMENT FOR WELLS IN THE KANGRA DISTRICT.

*1341 **Thakur Dalip Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state:—

(a) the quota of cement allotted for the Kangra District for sinking percolation wells;

(b) the cement actually supplied to the allottees of such wells;

(c) whether it is a fact that no cement has been supplied so far; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

(a) 40 tons.

(b) Permits for 20 tons have been issued to the allottees of the wells.

(c) First part. No.
Second part — Does not arise.

ALLEGED SALE OF CEMENT IN BLACK MARKET INTENDED FOR SINKING WELLS IN KANGRA DISTRICT.

*1342. **Thakur Dalip Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is fact that 20 tons of cement was allocated for supply to Kangra District for sinking percolation wells through a dealer at Pathankot but that he did not supply it to the permit holders and sold it instead in the black market;

(b) what action has the Government taken so far or propose to take in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a & b) 20 tons of cement was sanctioned to M/s Mehtab Mal Trilok Chand, Cement Stockists, Pathankot vide R D 969 dated the 22nd October, 1948 but the cement was received by them in March, 1949. The Civil Supply Officer, Gurdaspur froze the stock of cement and issued to the public on permits issued by him. No cement was sold in the black market out of this quantity of 20 tons.

SUPPLY OF IRON ANDS TEEL FOR AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS IN KANGRA DISTRICT.

*1343. **Thakur Dalip Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state:—

(a) the quota of iron and steel supplied to Kangra District for agricultural implements, etc;

(b) the names of the agencies through which this quota was distributed amongst the zamindars tehsilwise.

(c) the names of the zamindars to whom this quota was supplied with the quantity thereof tehsilwise ;

(d) whether it is a fact that no such quota or implements have been supplied so far; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) 672 maunds 30 seers of various kinds of iron for small agricultural implements and 1087 pieces of phalas of desi ploughs.

(b) This iron was distributed through the following seed agencies in the district:—

1. Palampur, Thural, Baij Nath.
2. Kangra, Nagrota, Shahpur.
3. Kulu, Bangar.
4. Hamirpur, Barsar, Nadaun.
5. Dehra Gopipur, Magwal, Gummer.
6. Nurpur, Jowali, Indora.

(c) Statements are enclosed ‡

(d) Does not arise.

GARDEN COLONIES.

*1344. **Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state:–

(a) the number of garden colonies proposed to be set up in the Province district-wise, together with the names of the colonies and the area under each colony;

(b) the names and addresses of refugees and non-refugees who have been allotted lands in each colony together with the area of land allotted to each one of them;

(c) the names and addresses of Government servants particularly of the Agricultural Department, who have been allotted lands in each of such colonies to-gether with the area allotted to them ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

(a) Twenty Six Garden colonies have been established. A list showing the names of the colonies district-wise is on the table of the House.‡

(b) List enclosed. ‡ (c) List enclosed. ‡

---

‡Kept in the Library.

SHRI ISHAR DAS SHARMA, RANGE OFFICER, KALESAR RANGE.

*1394. **Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state:—

(a) the total annual income and expenditure of the Kalesar range, district Ambala, during the period Shri Ishar Das Sharma held charge of the range;

(b) the total annual income and expenditure during the period when the successor of Ishar Das Sharma held charge of that range ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

(a) For the period from Febuary, 1945, to the 11th December 1948, when Shri Ishar Das Sharma held charge of Kalesar Range, the total annual income and expenditure is as, under:—

Febuary, 1945 to March, 1945.

Total income	= Rs. 6,775/-
,, expenditure	= Rs. 3,336/12

1945—46.

Total income	= Rs. 19,935/3/9
,, expenditure	= Rs. 17,994/3/-

1946—47

Total income	= Rs. 10,907/12
,, expenditure	= Rs. 28,168/8/3

1947—48.

Total Income	= Rs. 9,255/12/-
,, expenditure	= Rs. 28,694/5/-

April, 1948. to December, 1948.

Total income	= Rs. 5,218/8/-
,, expenditure	= Rs. 20,230/13/-

(b) For the period from 12th December, 1948, to 21st August 1949, then the successor of Shri Ishar Das Sharma held charge of the range, the total income and expenditure is as under:—

Total income	= Rs. 16,769/12/-
,, expenditure	= Rs. 27,683/12/6

PERCOLATION WELLS.

*1395. **Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for, Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of percolation wells allocated to each district of the Province particularly to Ambala District;

(b) the number of such wells allocated to each Tehsil of the Ambala District;

(c) the names and addresses of those persons community wise who have been allotted these wells in each Tehsil of the Ambala District ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : A statement is laid no the table. ‡

‡Kept in the Library.

BETTER FARMING

*1396. **Shri Rattan Singh Tabib**: Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a). the names and addresses of persons who got encouraged through the propaganda of the Agricultural Department and came to the Agricultural Farm, Ambala City, for consultations about better farming;

(b) the number of lectures delivered at the said farm by the person incharge to the groups of visitors at different times and the subjects dealt with by him ?

The hon. Minister for Development :

(a) A record of names and addresses of visitors to the Agricultural Farm, Ambala, is not maintained. The farm being quite close to the Civil Courts is visited frequently by a large number of visitors.

(b) No record of lectures delivered at the farm to the groups of visitors is kept, but visitors are given the required information regarding better farming and the experimental works being carried out there.

RECRUITMENT OF ASSISTANT SUB-INSPECTORS OF POLICE.

*1159. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that some assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police were recruited directly by the Government between the period 15-8-47 to 31-3-48; if so, the height and the chest measurement together with the qualifications and home addresses of each one of them;

(b) whether any complaint was received by him on or about 25.7.49, pointing out that the rules of recruiment were not observed in certain cases at the time of their selection;

(c) whether any enquiry was made; and if so, with what results ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes. A statement giving the required particulars is placed on the table.‡

(b) Yes.

(c) An enquiry was made and as a result of the inquiry one of the candidates who was not found up to the marks has been discharged. Some other candidates were discharged otherwise than as a result of the said enquiry.

‡Kept in the Library.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know the reason why the person 11th in the list already supplied to me, has been discharged ? Was he discharged on account of some physical defect in him?

Premier: I require notice.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: In view of the fact that Sardar Karamjit Singh whose height is 5ft $4\frac{3}{4}$" has been discharged, may I know as to why Sardar Dilwar Singh whose height is $5\frac{1}{4}$ft has not been discharged ?

Premier: I require fresh notice and I shall make the enquiries necessary. If the information of the hon. Member is that he has been discharged on that ground, I shall make the necessary enquiries about it. At present I cannot presume any reply.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Is it a fact that according to the police rules the minimum height for recruitment of Sub-Inspectors and constables is five feet and seven inches?

Premier: It is according to rules.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: What is the minimum height and the educational qualifications for making these appointments ?

Premier: I would refer the hon. Member to rules.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: I want to know whether the rules have been changed or not ?

Premier: If they have been amended, they are there and the hon. Member can refer to them.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: What are those amended rules?

Mr. Speaker: This information can be obtained from the Government Publications. The hon. Member can refer to them.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know the reason why a person who has read upto 9th class and whose height is comparatively less has not been discharged and has been preferred to a person who is a graduate and whose height is much more than the former? What are the reasons for his being descharged?

Premier: I want notice I am not expected to carry all the files with me.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Will th hon. Premier kindly state if the Superintendents of police are authorised to deviate from or amend the existing rules governing recruitment to various posts in the police Department ?

Premier: I would refer the hon. Member to the rules.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: I want to know whether the Superintendents of Police can in any case relax or waive any rule in favour of any candidate.

Premier: I would again refer him to the rules. The practice is that whatever is published in Government documents and is available to the hon. Members, a Minister is not expected to reply to any question pertaining to that.

DIRECT RECRUITMENT OF ASSISTANT SUB-INSPECTORS OF POLICE

*1160. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

(a) whether any Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police were recruited between the period 1.4.48 to 31.3.49; if so, the height and the chest measurment together with the qualifications and home addresses of each one of them;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the above referred to Assistant Sub-Inspectors were appointed against the specific provision referred to in para (a) above?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) Yes. A detailed statement, giving the required particulars in each case is placed on the table.‡

(b) No.

---

‡Kept in the Library.

INCREASE IN THE SALARIES OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS CLASS IV

*1167. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that the basic salaries of the Government Servants class IV have been recently increased; if so, to what extent;

(b) whether any reduction has been effected in the strength of this class of Government Servants after or before the sanctioning of the aforesaid increment; if so, the number of such Government employees affected thereby;

(c) the total number of Governmet Servants class IV on 1-4-49 and 1-9-49 respectively ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) Yes. The basic salaries of Government Servants class IV were revised with effect from the 1st September, 1949 as under:-

Class of Government Servant	Previous grade	Revised grade
	Rs.	Rs.
Peons.	15-1-19	20-½-25
Jamadars.	22	25-1-30
Daftries.	24-1-29	25-1-30/1-35

(b) Yes, *582.

(c) Total number of class IV Government Servants.

(i)	(ii)
on 1-4-49	on 1-9-49
*6320	*6713

*These figures do not include information regarding offices of the Director of Industries, East Punjab, and District and Sessions Judges, Ferozpore and Amritsar, whose replies have not yet been received.

The increase after 1-4-49 is mainly due to extra hands employed by the Rehabilitation Department.

ALLEGED HUNGER STRIKES OF THAKUR HAZARA SINGH AND Pt. DURGA CHAND IN POLICE LOCK-UP DHARAMSALA.

*1128 **Thakur Dalip Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Thakur Hazara Singh and Pandit Durga Chand stationed in Police lock-up Dharamsala are on hunger strike; if so, the reasons for the same ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : They remained in the police lock-up Dharamsala from 6.3.49 to 16.3.49, when they were transferred to sub-Jail Dharamsala They resorted to hunger strike at 2 p.m. on 15.3.49 while in the police lock-up for the following demands:—

1. They be sent to Yol Jail.
2. Cases against them should be put in court.
3. They should be given a servant for cooking their food in their presence.
4. They should be supplied playing cards, etc.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Premier please state whether these persons are ordinary criminals or Communist detenus ?

Premier : I want notice for this.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, what I want to urge is that if they are Communist detenus, they should not be treated as ordinary criminals. May I know if it is a fact that a person who is arrested for detention is treated like an ordinary criminal while he is kept in police lock-up ?

Premier : Not to my knowledge.

Mr. Speaker : It is a general question.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Does the hon. Premier know that the rules relating to the treatment of detenus are being kept secret ?

PREMIER : When they are secret, how can I disclose them ?

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION FOR SUBORDINATE SERVICES

*1252. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state whether the Government is aware of the fact that subordinate services are experiencing great difficulties and hardships for getting the housing accommodation in the urban areas particularly at the District Headquarters; if so, what steps the Government proposes to take to relieve them of their day to day hardships; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

Yes. It has come to the notice of Government that some difficulty is being felt by Govt. officials in the districts about accommodation. The matter is under considration.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Will the hon. Premier say since when it has come to his notice that subordinate Government servants are experiencing great difficulties in this matter ?

Premier: So far as the present Government is concerned, this question does not arise. The previous Government did give attention to this matter from time to time. It was also given due consideration in the regime of my first Ministry.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Was it not brought to the notice of the Government that Government servants serving at Simla were experiencing a great difficulty in getting housing accomodation ?

Premier: Yes, that is why all vacant houses were requisitioned and placed at the disposal of various Departments according to their strength for allotment to their staff. Government has so far been able to provide accommodation to seventy percent of the employees. Barring those who are living with their relatives or friends, all officials who have got rented houses have been allowed to draw House Rent Allowance to cover a part of the high rent that they may have to pay in order to get accommodation.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Has the Government ever considered the desirability of allotting to the Government servants those of the houses which are still lying vacant in the refugee colonies ?

Premier: These houses were built with the object of providing accommodation to the displaced persons. Most of them have been sold by auction to the displaced persons. The remaining have also to be disposed off in this manner. Government has no funds to acquire these houses for providing accommodation to Government servants.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Why can't the Government allot such of the vacant houses, as have not been purchased by the refugees so far, to the needy Government servants ?

Premier: They are meant for the displaced persons only. The Government servants cannot be given preferential treatment in the matter. Such houses have to be offered to the displaced persons in the first instance

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Can't the Government allot such vacant houses to the Government servants, without infringing the rights of the refugees thereby ?

Premier: The matter is under consideration. I will look into the suggestion made by the hon. Member.

VISITS PAID BY HON. MINISTERS.

*1253. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

(a) the number of the visits paid by each of the hon. Ministers to Amritsar, Chheharta, Batala, Dhariwal, Jullundur, and Gurgaon between 12-7-49 and 5-9-49;

(b) the travelling allowance drawn by each of the hon. Ministers for the aforesaid visits ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) A statement is laid on table of the house.

(b) It is not possible to give the amount of T. A. as the visits were not particularly to these places, which were visited in the course of tours to different parts of the state.

	Amritsar.	Chheharta.	Batala.	Dhariwal.	Jullundur	Gurgaon.
H.P.M.	1	1	–	1	1	1
H.M.F.	2	–	–	–	2	–
H.M.D.	2	1	2	1	3	1
H.M.R.	–	–	–	–	5	–
H.M.P.W.	1	–	–	–	–	1
H.M.I.&S	1	–	1	1	1	–
H.M.L.	4	–	1	6	3	–

S. PARITAM SINGH BRAR.

*1254 **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon . Premier be pleased to state:–

(a) whether it is a fact that S. Paritam Singh Brar, Superintendent of Police, Simla was asked to resign by the Government between 1.4.49 and 30.6.49; if so, the exact date of his resignation with the reason for calling upon him to resign from Police service;

(b) whether it is a fact that the aforesaid S. Paritam Singh was reappointed as Commandant of Moga Refugee Camp after his removal from the Police; it so, when he was reappointed with the reasons for his reappointment as Camp Commandant together with the salary fixed by the Government per month ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) Shri P. S. Brar was not asked to resign, he was temporarily appointed as Supirntendent of Police in the hope that the Government

Premier: :

of India would agree to his re-appointment in the East Punjab. As the Government of India did not do so, his services were terminated with effect from the 16th of April, 1949.

(b) After being relieved from the Police Department, in view of his administrative experience and in view of the fact that he had lost property in Pakistan, Shri Brar was appointed as Camp Commandant, Refugee Camp, Moga on a salary of Rs. 500/- from the 24th May, 1949.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it a fact that S. Pritam Singh Brar was forced to resign in the United Punjab, as there were charges of corruption against him ?

Premier : I don't think we have got the relevant record with us. But if the hon. Member gives notice, I shall try to ascertain this fact.

PROSECUTING INSPECTORS AND SUB-INSPECTORS.

*1255. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:—

(a) the names of the Police Prosecuting Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors respectively on 31. 12. 1948 in the Jullundur Division with the following particualrs (i) permanent (ii) probationer (iii) officating (iv) qualifications (v) date of enlistment in the Police department.

(b) the names of the Prosecuting Sub-Inspectors among them promoted as Prosecuting Deputy Superintendents between 15.8.47 and 15.9.49;

(c) whether any Prosecuting Inspectors at Amritsar, who was transferred, posted or provided in Provincial Armed Police, received the special pay and other allowances of the post on which he actually worked between the aforesaid period: if not, the reasons thereof;

(d) against which post he was allowed to draw his pay and allowances together with his name;

(e) whether any sanction was given by the Government between the aforesaid period for the post of additional. Prosecuting Inspector at Amritsar during the aforesaid period; if so, for what period;

(f) whether any Prosecuting Inspector at Amritsar having been provided in the Provincial Armed Police after the expiry of the aforesaid sanction was made to work as Prosecuting Inspector at Amritsar but was not allowed to draw his special pay and conveyance allowances though he was entitled to get them under police rule 10.65 (1) and 10.67 (3), if so, the reasons for the same;

(g) whether the Government proposes to make good the loss incurred by the aforesaid Prosecuting Inspector who worked in the prosecuting branch at Amritsar but was not allowed special pay and conveyance allowance from 3.5.1948 to 22.11.1948 and 28.2.1949 to 31.8.1949; if not, the reasons thereof ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) The required statement is placed on the table.‡

(b) No Prosecuting Sub-Inspector was promoted to Prosecuting Deputy Suprintendent between 15.8.47 and 15.9.1949.

(e-g) As the officiating Prosecuting Inspector concerned has served a notice to lodge a suit against Govt., the matter will soon become sub-judice. It will, therefore, not be appropriate to answer this part of the Assembly Question.

POLICE REPORTS.

*1309 **Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

(a) whether he relies only on police reports before taking action against a person under section 3 of the East Punjab Public Safety Act;

(b) whether the authorities ever supplement police evidence with independent enquiry from local respectable gentlemen before detaining a person under the above mentioned Act ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) The Provincial Government, District Magistrate and the Superintendent Police may arrest a person under section 3 of the East Punjab Public Safety Act, V of 1949, if satisfied with respect to that person that, with a view to preventing him from acting in any manner prejudicial to the public safety or the maintenance of public order, it is necessary to do so.

It is for the arresting authority to satisfy itself about the necessity of effecting an arrest. It is within the knowledge of Government that District Magistrates have acted on reports, other than police reports at times, and so have Supdts. of Police availed of unofficial information to satisfy themselves.

(b) Yes, very often.

‡Kept in the Library.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is the hon. Premier perfectly sure that the Police personnel have been able to shake off their old mentality to such an extent, that their reports can invariably be taken as correct and reliable.

Premier : Yes, that is why they have been invested with these powers.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Has it come to the notice of the hon. Premier that there are several cases in which persons have been arrested to satisfy personal malice, without sufficient evidence to justify their detention ?

Premier : So long as I was the Minister-in-charge, no such case came to my notice. If any such complaint was received in his time, the hon. Member must be knowing it.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Does the hon. Premier remember that in the regime of his previous Ministry, a gentleman named Brahma Nand of Kangra was arrested for no fault of his but due to some personal consideration ?

Premier : Yes, I remember this case. He was arrested because inquiries revealed that he was a Communist, even though some of his friends with a view to protect him, had alleged that he was not a Communist.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is the Government aware of the fact that this detenu was released afterwards on relying upon the reports of the police ?

Premier : The Government ordered his release as there was no longer any danger of breach of peace.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Was there any danger before ; if so, what ?

Premier : The Government is not prepared to disclose this secret.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that the police officials often resile from their statements after sometime has elapsed ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is it not a fact that it was brought to the notice of the hon. Premier before this that the son of Master Hari Singh was arrested at Hoshiarpur on the basis of a police report ?

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar: Will the Government consider the advisability of constituting a sub-commitee consisting of M.L.A's. to fully scrutinize and periodically review the individual cases of the detenus ?

Premier: No. Not at present.

TRANSFER OF HIGH DISTRICT OFFICERS.

*1332 **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma**: Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

(a) the number of districts where both the Deputy Commissioner and the Superntendent of Police have been transferred almost at the same time;

(b) whether this departure from the old practice of not transferring both the officers at the same time, has been found to be of any administrative advantage;

(c) the period for which the Rohtak District remained without a Deputy Commissioner;

(d) whether it is a fact that high officials are consulted before their transfers;

(e) whether it is a fact that of late there is a growing tendency on the part of high officials to protest against orders of transfer ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) 5.

(b) Sometimes the interests of public service require minor deviations from old practices.

(c) For about two months the S.D.O. Sonepat and the A.D.C. Rohtak performed the duties of Deputy Commissioner. The district was not without a Deputy Commissioner during this period.

(d) This is purely discretionary with Government.

(e) No general tendency is visible. Occasional representations against transfers are not in any way a new feature.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Has the Government ever considered that the transfer of Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police almost at same time adversely affects the administration ?

Mr. Speaker: It is an expresion of opinion.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: May I know what steps the Government propose to take to stop such transfers in the interest of administration ?

Premier: As these transfers were made by the hon. Ex-Premier, I do not like to express my own opinion in this matter.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: Is it a fact that in the absence of permanent Deputy Commissioner, the work in the district has fallen into arrears ?

Premier: The Deputy Commissioner is there.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Is it a fact that such officers who are transferred show resentment and try to stop their transfers ?

Mr. Speaker : These are the personal views of the hon. Member.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Is it a fact that the great resentment was expressed by a highly placed officer at the time of his transfer and he approached the Central Government ?

Premier: If the hon Member brings to my notice any particular instance, I will inform the House provided there is nothing secret in it.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know if the former Chief Secratary made any representation to the Central Government on his transfer ?

Premier: The Parliamantary Secretary who worked with the Ex-Premier must be in the know of it.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Is it not a fact that Shri Parbodh Chandra had been the favourite Parliamantary Secretary of the Ex-Premier ?

Mr. Speaker: Disallowed.

Shri Virendra : Is it not a fact that the Punjab Government received a reprimand from the Central Government on the transfer of this Chief Secretary ?

MAGISTRATES AND ACCUMULATION OF PENDING WORK.

*1333. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that large number of panding cases have accumulated in different places in the Province for the number of magistrates is insufficient to dispose of them;

(b) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the litigant public is suffering great hardship on account of this accumulation;

(c) the number of cases pending in each district together with the number of the ilaqa Magistrate districtwise ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes. Government have recently appointed 15 new

Magistrates in different districts. This should help in the disposal of arrears.

(b) Government have so far received no such complaint,

(c) The number of cases pending in each district on the 30.9.1949 are:—

Name of district.	No. of pending cases.	No. of ilaqa magistrates.
Simla	77	2
Ambala	555	8
Gurgaon	227	5
Karnal	1141	7
Hissar	477	12
Rohtak	953	6
Jullundur	420	6
Hoshiarpur	403	7
Amritsar	807	11
Ferozepore	915	17 including D.M.
Gurdaspur	800	7
Kangra	233	5
Ludhiana	492	5

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: May I know whether these fifteen magistrates will be able to cope with the work which has fallen into arrear ?

Premier: The matter is under the consideration of the Government. The Government is trying to clear off this arrear.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: May I know that out of 953 cases which are at present pending in the Rohtak District, how many of them are more than two years old ?

Premier: I require notice for collecting this information.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Has the Government issued any instructions to these magistrates for the quick disposal of these cases; if so, has the Government received any progress report ?

Premier: Such reports are being received periodically by the Government.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Does the Government consider that by the appointment of these 15 additional magistrates, the work will come to normal within the period of five or six months ?

Premier: The number of pending cases is very large but the Government is considering how to reduce the number of cases.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Does the Government propose to entrust some cases to Sub Judges so that these pending cases may be disposed of earlier ?

Premier: I will consult the Chief Secretary and issue instructions in this behalf ?

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Is not the proposal to increase the number of magistrates under the consideration of Government ?

Premier: I cannot say anything at present.

They might be asked to work for longer hours or if need be, their number may be increased.

NEW CAPITAL FOR THE PROVINCE.

*1334. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma**: Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government has refused to give any financial help for the building of the new Capital for the Province at Chandigarh;

(b) whether it is a fact that the scheme of making Chandigarh as the Capital has been dropped;

(c) whether the Government proposes to shift their offices to the plains this winter; if so, where; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) There has so far been no official refusal from the Government of India to our request for financial assistance for the building of the New Capital.

(b) The Government have not altered the decision to build the New Capital at Chandigarh. A reply in this matter has already been given in answer to question 1270 by Dr. Sant Ram Seth on 10. 10. 49, copy of which is placed on the table for ready reference.

(c) It will not be possible to shift the administrative offices to the plains during this winter for want of accommodation elsewhere.

Padit Shri Ram Sharma: Did the Provincial Government correspond with the Central Government in connection with financial assistance for building the new Capital after the Prime Minister, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had declared in a public meeting at Ambala that the Central Government could not give any such assistance ?

Premier: I was present at that meeting and am in a position to say that Pandit ji never said any such thing. He said that only a small sum could he advanced and the matter is still under consideration.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Did not Pandit ji say that no financial assistance could he given and that the Provincial Government should take steps to build the Capital on modest lines if it was necessary to build it ?

Premier: I remember all that the Prime Minister said.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Will the hon. Premier kindly repeat what Pandit ji said ?

Premier: I have already replied.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi: Is it a fact that the Provincial Government has not yet approached the Central Government for a financial assistance?

Premier: The information of the hon. Member is absolutely wrong.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Did not the hon. Premier read the head lines of various news papers which unequivocially said that according to Pandit ji no financial aid could he given to this province from the centre for building the Capital ?

Premier: The Ex-parliamentary Secretery must be knowing about the head lines as he himself must have been responsible for disseminating that news.

DEMAND OF CHAPRASIS AND ORDERLIES IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

*1335. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Government is aware of the demands of chaprasis and orderlies in the Government service for an increase in their salaries; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government have taken these demands into consideration; if so, the result thereof ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes, representations asking for an increase in the rates of their salaries were received from the peons and orderlies of certain departments.

Premier :

(b) Yes, these demands were rejected as only last year the grade of pay of peons was revised from Rs. 15-1-19 to Rs. 20-½-25.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : Does the Government intend to reconsider the question of raising the salaries of chaprasis and orderlies ?

Premier : I can't say anything about it at present. At this time I could not do anything more than reading the answer which had been got ready by the former Premier.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : But why should the hon. Premier depend on the decisions of the former Premier ? Hasn't he himself sense and courage to do these things ?

Premier : The hon. Member should rest assured that I have enough sense.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should avoid such unpleasant remarks.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I did not mean any insinuaction and the hon. Premier should not feel it.

Mr. Speaker : But I feel it and you should withdraw your remarks.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : I withdraw them.

Shri Amar Nath Vidya-alankar : Why not fix the minimum wages of the Chaprasis like the factory workers ?

Mr. Speaker : That is a suggestion.

HUNGER STRIKE OF COMMUNIST DETENUS.

*1336. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma**: Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

(a) the specific demands of the Communist detenus for which they restorted to hunger strike in the last week of September, 1949;

(b) whether any of their demands were conceded to by the Government; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Minister or Parliamentary Secretary met any of these detenus in any jail to discuss with them the points at issue; if so, with what result; if not, why not ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a)&(b) A comparative statement showing the demands made by the Commnunist detenus and howfor they have been met is laid on the table ‡

‡Kept in the Library.

(c) A Parliamentary Secretary to the former Premier visited Ambala and Gurdaspur districts and discussed the demands of the detenus with them. That was before they resorted to hunger strike.

CONDITIONS OF PRISONERS IN JAILS

*1337. **Pandit Shri Ram Sharma**: Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

(a) the improvements made in the conditions of prisoners in the jails in the province during the last six months;

(b) the extent to which the recommendations of the Jail Enquiry Committee appointed by the Government have been implemented so far;

(c) what stepts, if any, have been taken by the Government to relieve the sufferings of the prisoners regarding the want of accommodation in the jails ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) Government did not take up the general question of making improvements in the conditions of prisoners, as it was intended to do so on receipt of the Report of the Jails Reforms Committee, which has only recently been received. However, during the period in question the rules relating to their classification have been made more liberal by treating as 'B' class all prisoners who are Matriculates or who have an income of Rs. 100- p.m., and they have also been allowed the supply of some more newspapers and periodicals.

(b) The reports of the East Punjab Jails Reform Committee has been received only recently and is under the consideration of Government;

(c) The following measures have been taken to provide more accommodation to prisoners:-

(1) Extension of the jail at Ferozepore for pucca accommodation for 1,000 prisoners;

(2) extension of the Central Jail, Ambala to increase pucca accommodation for a total number of 1,500 prisoners,

(3) construction of a pucca District Jail at the site of the Camp Jail Hissar for 500-700 prisoners,

(4) Retention of the camp jail, Yol, with accommodation for 1,200 prisoner;

(5) Establishment of a Camp Jail at Delhi for 500-600 rpisoners.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SOHAN SINGH SUB-INSPECTOR LUDHIANA.

*1403. **Mehta Ranbir Singh**: Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that on 3rd August, 1949 Shri Shanti Saroop, General Secretary, Tehsil Congress Committee, Samrala and Shri Palta, Inspector foodgrains, Ludhiana, brought it to the notice of Superintendent of Police, Ludhiana that one Sohan Singh Sub-Inspector Police, Ludhiana had imported eight bags of wheat without any authority;

[b] whether it is a fact that the Superintendent of Police deputed the Assistant Superintendent of Police, who took in his possession 6 bagt of wheat from an open place near police station, Ludhiana Sadr;

[c] whether any case has been registered by the police against the said sub-Inspector; if so, with what result ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

[a] Yes.

[b] Yes, a Deputy Superintendent of Police was deputed but the place wherefrom the wheat was recovered was away from the Police Station premises.

[c] Case F.I.R. No. 394, dated 3.8.49, u/s 4.9/9/11 EPRO/48 has been registered and is under investigation.

Mr. Speaker: I find that this is a matter which is sub-judicie and I am definitely of the opinion that such questions should not be asked which might affect the merits of the case.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Sir, may I know if a case which is under investigation can also be considered to be sub-judice ?

Mr. Speaker: Yes. Any case which is even likely to go before a court of law can be considered to be sub-judice. There are certain rulings which say that only those cases which are before the courts of law can be considered sub-judice, but there are other rulings which say that any case which is expected to go to a court of law must be taken in this light. I am of the view that cases which are under investigation are likely to be taken before the law courts and it is desirable that these should not be discussed.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma: Sir, how do you know that the case is likely to go before a court of law ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Sir, I only want some information from the Government.

Mr. Speaker: I can assure the hon. Member that any reply given on the floor of the House is likely to affect the merits of the case one way or the other; therefore, no reply in such cases should be expected.

COMPENSATION FOR LOSS SUFFERED BY GOVERNMENT SERVANTS IN LAHORE.

*1412. **Chaudhri Sunder Singh**: Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

[a] whether it is a fact that certain officials were asked to stay at Lahore after the 9th August, 1947, as their offices were to re-open in the East Punjab after a fortnight or so;

[b] whether such officials had to run away from Lahore in order to save their life and honour leaving behind all their belongings;

[c] whether the Government intends to compensate such officials for the loss suffered by them ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

[a] A number of officials were required by Government to stay in West Punjab after partition as officials lent to West Punjab or in the interest of Government work. It is not correct that these officials stayed in West Punjab after 9th August as their offices were to re-open in East Punjab after a fortnight or so.

[b] It is true that many officials suffered loss of property in the circumstances mentioned.

[c) Government granted an interest free advance upto 3 months' pay, subject to a maximum of Rs. 1200/-, to all Government servants who were working in the West Punjab on the date of partition or who had come to East Punjab as refugees and were later on absorbed in Government offices whether in a permanant or temporary capacity. This advance was given to enable displaced Government officials to provide themselves with necessary personal equipment in view of their losses in West Punjab. The Punjab Partition Committee have also appointed a small Committee consisting of representatives of the two Governments to consider the general question of the grant of compensation to such officials.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Does the Government propose to compensete the losses suffered by them or only an advance of three months pay not exceeding Rs. 1,200 is to be given ?

Premier: I have already answered this question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is the hon. Premier aware of the fact that a number of those officers who were on deputation with the West Punjab Government suffered losses amounting to lakhs of rupees ?

Premier: It may be so.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: I want a definite answer.

Mr. Speaker: You can't compel an hon. Minister to answer a question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: I want to have a ruling from the chair as to whether the reply given by the hon. Minister should not be definite

Mr. Speaker: Next question please.

APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF SCHEDULE CASTE AS AN UNDER SECRETERY.

*1415. **Chaudhri Sunder Singh:** Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state:-

[a] whether it is a fact that during the Budget Session of 1948, it was stated on the floor of the house that one member of the scheduled cast was going to be taken as an Under Secretary in the East Punjab Secretariat,

[b] whether that promise has been fulfilled by Government if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

[a] No.

[b] Does not arise. I may add for the information of the hon. Member that the post of Under Secretaries are born on the East Punjab Civil Service Executive Branch cadre and there is no Harijan in this Service at present.

LIQUOR AND OPIUM ETC.

*1264 **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state:-

[a] the country made and foreign liquor consumed in each district of the province between 1-4-49 to 30-9-49 and in the corresponding period of 1946 and 1948 respectively:-

[b] opium, bhang, and sulpha consumed respectively in each district of the Province from 1-4-49 to 30-9-49 and in the corresponding periods of 1946-1948 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

[a] and [b] Two statements giving the required information are laid on the table. ‡

---

‡ Kept in the library.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is the hon. Premier aware of the fact that higher bids were offered for liquor shops this year than during the previous year ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is it not the policy of the Goverrment to enforce prohibition to the maximum possible extent and to reduce consumption of liquor as much as possible ?

Premier: According to the policy of the Government total prohibition has been inroduced in Rohtak District while the consumption of liquor in other district is proposed to be reduced to minimum.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is it not a fact that several new liquor shops have been opened this year ?

Premier: I require notice for answering that question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is it not a fact that new wine-shops have recently been opened in Gurdaspur and Pathankot and that the residents of these towns have protested against it ?

Premier: I thank the hon. Member for the information supplied by him.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Has the Government done any propaganda against drinking ?

Premier: Yes, the Government has been doing propaganda in favour of prohibition.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Did the Government publish posters or were some lectures arranged for telling people that drinking is an evil habit ?

Premier: Yes, the Government published posters in this connection and I shall request the hon. Member to visit the office of the Publicity Department to see these for himself.

DIPLOMA TUBERCULOSIS DISEASES CLASS AT KASAULI.

*1365. **Mehta Ranbir Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state:-

[a] the date on which student for T.D.D. class Kasauli started taking training;

[b] whether it is a fact that they have completed their prescribed course but no dates have been fixed so far for the examination, if so, why;

[c] the amount spent by the Government in this connection ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.

[a] The training of students of the T.D.D. Class at Kasauli commenced from the 15th August, 1949;

Premier :

[b] The answer to first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, it is understood that no dates for the examination have so far been fixed as the rules and regulations for the T.D.D. Class have not yet been approved by the Senate of the East Punjab University. It is expected that the necessary approval will be accorded in the next meeting of the Senate to be held on the 16th October, 1949, and the examination will be held some time thereafter.

[c] Nothing so far.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Before starting these classes, did the Government ask the University to frame the necessary rules so that the students might finish their studies in time ?

Premier: The University was addressed on the subject and the Medical Faculty took action on our letter.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is it not a fact that the University was addressed after the students had completed their courses of study ?

Premier: I require notice for answering that question

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is it not a fact that the students have to wait for the date of examination even after the completion of their studies ?

Premier: I require notice for answering this question.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: When will it be possible to hold the examination ?

Premier: I have already answered this question.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is it not a fact that the students will have to waste one year or more for no fault of theirs ?

Premier: If the hon. Member had listened to my reply, he would have noted that as submitted by me this matter will be considered by the Senate of the University at its next meeting.

COUNTRY LIQUOR SHOP. KHANNA.

*1411 **Mehta Ranbir Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that country liquor shop within the Muinicpal limits, Khanna used to remain closed on Dusehra festival day for a number of years in the past;

(b) whether it is a fact that liquor was sold to the public by the licensee on lst October, 1949;

(c) if the answer to part [b] above be in affirmative, whether, (i) the Government passed any such order as permitted sale on that day, or [ii] whether the Excise Officer did it of his own accord;

(d) if the answer to part [c] [ii] above be in the affirmative the action Government intends to take against the Excise Officer concerned ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) No orders either by Government or by the local Excise and Taxation Officer were passed to keep the shop open on the Dusehra day. An enquiry is being made in the matter.

(d) Does not arise.

PROHIBITION

*1414. **Chaudhri Sunder Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that beer has been exempted from the scheme of prohibition in the East Punjab; if so the circumstances under which it was done ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The .position now is that beer is not exempted from the prohibition law in East Punjab.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know the reason which led the Government last year to exempt beer from the restriction imposed under the scheme for prohibition,?

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know what objection the hon. Premier has in telling me the reason for exemption of 'beer last year ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that at the time of introduction of prohibition in Rohtak, the Government exempted beer from the definition of liquors and this gave rise to various conjectures by the public ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : The hon. Minister, who was in charge of this subject last year is present in the House. Will he be pleased to state the reasons which led the Government to do away with the exemption granted to beer last year?

Minister for Labour : Before the introduction of prohibition in Rohtak, a conference of officers of the division, hon. Members of the Legislative Assembly and prominent persons of that District was held in which it was decided that beer should be exempted for six months to start with.

Pandit Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the names of the hon. Members of the Legislative Assembly who made the suggestion?

Shri Prabodh Chandara : Does the hon. Minister remember that last year at the time of introduction of prohibition in Rohtak District, he stated that beer had diet value and should therefore be exempted ? Now that it has been decided to do away with that exemption, has it ceased to have any diet value?

Premier : Thanks for the information.

REPRESENTATION OF INHABITANTS OF VILLAGE TAPU KAMALPUR WASHED AWAY BY FLOOD IN JAMUNA.

***1127. Thakur Dalip Singh:** Will the Hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that village Tapu Kamalpur, Tehsil Jagadhari, District Ambala was completely washed out by river Jamna in 1947 and all the inhabitants of that village were consequently rendered homeless;

(b) Whether it is a fact that the inhabitants of village Tapu Kamalpur represented their case to the Deputy Commissioner, Ambala District and the Commissioner, Ambala Division;

(c) Whether it is a fact that the above referred to office recommended that the inhabitants of Tapu Kamalpur be granted land for Abadi purpose in village Mandauli in lieu of the land in Tapu Kamalpur;

(d) Whether it is a fact that this case was sent by the Commissioner, Ambala Division to the Government in March, 1948;

(e) Whether it is a fact that several representations have been made to the Hon. Minister to expedite the case ;

(f) What action, if any, has the Government taken or proposes to take in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava. It is regretted that the information is not yet ready. It is being collected and will be supplied direct to the hon. Member in due course.‡

---

‡ Final reply since received.

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

(a) Yes, except two pucca houses, and most of the people were consequently rendered homeless.

(b) No.

(c) Yes. This was a proposal by the Deputy Commissioner, Ambala, which was supported by the Commissioner, Ambala Division.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes.

(f) First Part [i] Rs. 3,840 disbursed as taccavi loans.

[ii] Rs. 284-0-9 remitted on account of land revenue.

Second Part [i] 56 bighas and 5 biswas of land in village Mandauli is being acquired for abadi purposes of the inhabitants of village Tapu Kamalpur.

[ii] Further relief in the form of taccavi loans or gratuitous relief is under consideration of Government.

DISPOSAL OF LORRIES AND BUSES BELONGING TO GOVERNMENT

*1311. **Shrimati Sita Devi.** Will the hon. Minister for Public works be pleased to state the manner in which the motor lorries and buses which were lying in Jullundur exposed to summer heat, winter cold and torrential rainfall, purchased by the East Punjab Government last year have been disposed of by the Government ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: The whole position was explained in August, 1949, in a Press Communique, a copy of which is laid on the table. Out of 356 vehicles received, 226 were allotted to Government Departments and Local Bodies. The remaining vehicles are proposed to be used in the implementation of Nationalization Scheme.

PRESS NOTE.

Government have, from time to time, been criticised for the purchase and storage of chassis at Jullundur, and it is now felt that the public should be apprised of the actual position. Immediately after the partition, Government purchased 426 chassis at a rebate of 15 per-cent and it was intended to sell these chassis to private operators whose fleets had been considerably damaged as a result of evacuation and internal dispersal. It was also desired to keep a fleet of vehicles reserve for Government and semi-Government Departments as, due to dollar shortage, the procurment of vehicles was not an easy task. It was further proposed to use some of them for the operation of local bus services and on suburban routes. Out of these 426 chassis we have received only 356 so far. Forty-four are being used in the Jullundur and Amritsar Omnibus Services, and 182 have been allotted to Government and semi-Government Departments. The Government could not sell these vehicles to private operators on account of the ban imposed by the Government of India. It is proposed to utilize the remaining vehicles for the operation of local bus services at Ambala, Ludhiana and Ferozepur. It might be pointed out that the Government in the course of this transaction has not incurred any loss; on the other hand, a gain of 15 per-cent has accrued to the Government and semi-Government Departments to whom these vehicles have been sold. The batteries have been stored at Jullundur with all the necessary precautions and damage to tyres has so far been avoided by jacking up of the chassis.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Does not the hon. Premier realise that the lorries and buses lying unprotected at Jullundur for two years have been considerably damaged, and it would be waste of money to spend about sixty thousand rupees for construction of a shed ?

Shrimati Sita Devi. Will it not be sheer waste of money to spend sixty thousand rupees for erection of a shed at this stage ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh. Is it not a fact that in the first Press Note issued by the Government it was stated that these lorries were intended to be given to private individuals but in a later Note it was stated that the Government of India had prohibited it from doing so? Did not the Government look into the rules and law on the subject before submitting their proposal to the Government of India?

Premier: There is no question of law in this matter.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Under what law has the Government of India imposed this restriction?

Premier: Every action is not based on law.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Does the Government refer every matter to the Government of India before taking any action on it?

Premier: This does not arise.

Mr. Speaker: That is a general question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is it not a fact that once the Government showed a loss of about seventy thousand rupees in connection with lorries and buses?

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know if it is a fact that on account of the rise in prices of the motor lorries and buses due to the devaluation of the rupee, no private person has been given any motor lorry or bus?

Premier: No, this is not a fact.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Is it a fact that the General Manager of the omnibus service at Jullundur advised the Government to construct the shed for the buses somewhere near the ominbus stand so that it might be more useful?

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter of opinion.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state as to when the Government proposes to put into effect the scheme of nationalisation of transport in the Province?

Mr. Speaker: This is a general question.

ARREST OF CONTRACTOR OF P. W. D.

***1398. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib:** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some people of Shahpur, including the local Congress President Sardar Sampuran Singh, caught a P. W. D. contractor illegally cutting down a tree belonging to the Public Works Department by the side of the Grand Trunk Road near Shahpur and handed him over to the police; if so, the action taken by the Government against the contractor and the servants of the Public Works Department, who connived at the illegal act?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava, Some dead and fallen trees along the Grand Trunk Road were auctioned for Rs. 1300 to one Shri Piarey Lal. He started cutting his trees on the 22nd November, 1948; his men cut an unauctioned Shisham tree in furlong 4 of mile 118 of the Grand Trunk Road. On the same day the Sub-Divisional Officer, Ambala, received an application from Shri Piarey Lal late in the evening that his men had cut the tree by mistake and that the wood was lying intact at site. The Sub-Divisional Officer inspected the site in the morning of 26th November, 1948 and made an enquiry. It was revealed that the tree was cut on the 25th November, 1948 evening and some of the villagers of Shahpur had lodged a report with the police that an unauctioned tree had been cut by Shri Piarey Lal. The Road Inspector also sent a report to the Sub-Divisional Officer on the 26th November 1948 with a copy to the Sub-Inspector of Police. The Sub Divisional Officer also reported the matter to the Police on the 27th November 1948 giving the result of his personal enquiry. On 2nd December 1948 the Executive Engineer, Ambala, reported to the Superintendent of Police, Ambala, as well as to the Superintending Engineer Ambala.

The Police prosecuted the men and the case was tried in the court. The court fined Shri Piarey Lal Rs. 400/-and his partner Rs. 100/- on the 16th March, 1949.

Shri Piarey Lal is not a P. W. D. contractor, but he was a successful bidder in the public auction of the trees and no departmental action could be taken against him. During subsequent auctions, he was not however allowed to give any bid. As no departmental official was found to have been involved in the illegal act, no action was necessary against any departmental official.

PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ROADS

*1399. **Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether Government has under considration any plan for the development of roads of the District of Simla; if so, whether the metalling of the shortest road connecting Simla with Sabathu through Kaithli Ghat (a bridle road of about twenty three miles length already exists between Kaithli Ghat and Sabathu) is included in the Plan?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : On account of acute financial stringency it is not possible to provide for the construction of any road in Simla District. It is not proposed to take in hand the metalling of the shortest road connecting Simla with Sabathu through Kaithli Ghat.

HUSKING OF PADDY

*1263. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Industries be pleased to state:-

[a] whether it is a fact that about 3 maunds of paddy is allowed to be husked in Gurdaspur District by machine chakkies for household consumption;

[b] whether it is also a fact that nowhere also in the province this concession of husking is allowed; if so, the reasons for this discrimination;

[c] whether it is a fact that about 38 M.L.A's of East Punjab submitted a representation to the Government in the month of April, 1949 praying therein that some quantity of paddy be allowed to be husked at the rice chakkis mills for household consumption every where in the province; if so, the decision arrived at by the Government?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

[a] The concession already allowed for the husking of paddy by village chakkis for household consumption in Gurdaspur district has been withdrawn with effect from 1st September, 1949 in order to enforce the Rice Monopoly Procurement Scheme rigidly.

[b] The concession is not allowed any where in the Province, The question of discrimination does not therefore arise.

[c] Yes. A representation was received. It was decided not to extend the concession but to withdraw it from Gurdaspur District also.

DISPOSAL OF IRON AND STEEL MATERIAL WITH THE REGISTERED RE-ROLLER MILLS.

***1323 Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Industries be pleased to state :—

[a] the weight of bars, flat Iron, hoops etc., re-rolled by the Registered Re-Rollers and lying with them in the province on 31st May, 30th June and 31st July, 1949, respectively;

[b] The number of permits issued by the Licensing Officer and the material lifted from the Re-Rollers in the months of May, June and July 1949 respectively;

[c] the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to dispose of large stocks of steel accumulated lying with the Registered Re-Roller Mills in the province?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : [a] The registered re-rollers do not come under the jurisdiction of the Licensing Officer, Iron and

Steel Control, East Punjab. They receive their quota from the Iron and Stèel Controller, Calcutta, direct and submit to him account of disposal of re-rolled material against the permits issued by him.

[b] None.

[c] Government propose to issue such of the re-rolled material, as is not lifted by the regular quota holders to persons who were not previously getting quotas of iron and steel.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know if the Provincial Government has imposed any restrictions on the storage, production and sale of re-rolled steelgoods ?

Minister : I am sorry I cannot reply to this question just now. I can, however, supply the necessary information if notice is given.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it not a fact that the re-rolling mills are at present, closed under orders of the Government and they are not allowed to dispose of their finished goods without the permission of the Licensing Officer ?

Minister : I have already replied to this question.

THE LUDHIANA STEEL RE-ROLLING MILLS, LUDHIANA

*1324 **Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Industries be pleased to state :—

[a] the action taken by the Government on the notice dated the 14th July, 1949, served by Pandit Des Raj, Advocate, on behalf of the Ludhiana Steel Re-Rolling Mills, Ludhiana, on the Licensing Officer, Iron and Steel, Simla;

[b] whether the Government is aware of the fact that due to large accumulation of finished stocks, the Ludhiana Steel Re-Rolling Mills, Ludhiana have been compelled to refuse a quota of 300 tons of scrap steel?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : [a] The Re-Rolling Mills which had not been submitting the stock position regulary were asked to submit their stock position to enable the Licensing Officer, Iron and Steel Control, East Punjab, to issue permits. The latest stocks declared by them are 150 tons of M. S. Rounds against which permits for 209 tons have already been issued. 150 tons hoops were also declared to be in stock. There was a demand of 40 tons of hoops for which permits have been issued.

[b] No information is available with Government.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it a fact that the steel Re-Rolling Mills sent a number of representations to the Government to the effect that due to the accumulation of finished goods they were forced to refuse any more quotas of Steel ?

Minister : I am sorry I cannot reply to this question.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know if the Government ever ascertained the causes of the accumulation of steel goods in the mills when there is such an acute scarcity of these goods in the Province ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh ; May I know if it is in the knowledge of the Government that there exists an acute scarcity of finished steel goods in the Province and the people here should get the maximum quota of steel?

Minister : Thanks for the information.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it a fact that the mills have been closed down on account of accumulation of finished goods?

———

ALLOTMENT OF LAND AS NAUTOR IN THE KANGRA DISTRICT

*1123. **Thakur Dalip Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether any virgin land has been alloted as Nautor to agriculturists in Kangra district, if so, the area of the land together with the persons to whom such land has been allotted.

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad : No virgin land has been allotted so far as Nautor to agriculturists in Kangra District.

Thakur Dalip Singh : May I know if the Government has any scheme under consideration to bring more Nautor (virgin land) under cultivation in view of the Grow more Food Scheme?

Minister I can reply if the hon. Member repeats his question.

***1310 Shrimati Sita Devi:** Will the hon. Ministerfor Revenue, be pleased to state :—

[a] the number of premises [houses and shops] owned and left by Muslim Evacuees and occupied by the residents of the East Punjab without the authority of the Custodian of the Evacuee Property;

[b] the action taken by the Government to get those premises cavated?.

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

[a] 1262 houses and shops excluding the Kangra district about which no report has yet been received from the Deputy Commissioner;

[b] Intructions have been issued from time to time to all Deputy Commissioners in the East Punjab to eject all residents of the East Punjab who are in unauthorised possession of evacuse premises. Many premises have been got vacated and re-alloted to the displaced persons. Some cases are however pending in the Custodian's department in which either the occupents claim to be old tenants or mortgagees of the premises.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it not a fact that a number of cases in which the residents of the East Punjab are occupying evacuee premises, were brought to the notice of the Government, but no action was taken on them on account of personal relationship and certain other considration ?

Mr. Speaker : It is not proper to use words such as "personal considrations and relationship."

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that a large number of evacuee houses have been given to the Government officials after requisitioning them?

Premier : It does not arise out of the question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if any of these evacuee houses have been given to the Government officers ?

Premier : I require notice for it.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if the Government has received any representations during the last six months against the occupation of the evacuee houses by the residents of the East Punjab ?

Premier : I am not aware of any representations having been made during the last three months, but I have knowledge about the previous six months.

PROPERTY OF MUSLIMS OF TAHSIL ZIRA. DISTRICT FEROZEPUR

*1410. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue, be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the Muslims of Village Chuhar Chak, Tehsil Zira, District Ferozpore, applied to the Government for the restoration of their houses and lands last year;

(b) [i] whether they were put into possession of their houses after enquiry to the effect that they had not gone to Pakistan during the disturbances; if so, when the decision to restore the houses was arrived at;

(ii) when the houses were restored to them;

Dr. Sant Ram Seth:

(c) whether their lands have been restored to them by now; if not, the reasons for delay;

(d) the time that will be required to restore the lands to them ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) Two muslims Sohna s/o Dasondhi and Mst. Akko widow of Sheru of village Ghuhar Chak, Tehsil Zira applied for the restoration of their houses and lands last year.

(b) (i) Yes, after enquiry in regard to their not having left India, their houses and lands were restored to them. The original application not being traceable exact date of restoration cannot be given.

(ii) It was probably in May 1949.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

SUBSIDIES FOR SINKING NEW WELLS IN THE KANGRA DISTRICT.

*1122. **Thakur Dalip Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state:-

[a] the total amount of subsidy granted to the agriculturists of the Kangra district for sinking new wells together with the names of persons to whom subsidies have been made;

[b] the quantity of cement given to them for the purpose;

[c] the quota of steel granted for agricultural implements in the Kangra district together with the names of persons to whom this quota has been given ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad:

[a] The names and addresses of persons to whom taccavi loan was granted @ Rs. 1750/- in the year 1947-48, are given below. All these well sinkers will be granted subsidy @ Rs. 875/- each.

1 Shri Hari Ram s/o Shri Nohlu Ram.
2 Shri Narain Das s/o Shri Madho Das.
3 ,, Jai Ram s/o Shri Ghani Ram.
4 ,, Milkhi Ram s/o Shri Lahroo.
5 ,, Jai Nand s/o Shri Raghu.
6 ,, Sukh Ram s/o Shri Hans.
7 ,, Partap Singh s/o Shri Zaildar.
8 ,, Indar Mal s/o Shri Wazira Ram.
9 ,, Duni Chand s/o Shri Labhu.
10. ,, Milkhi Ram s/o Shri Kohroo.

The names of the well sinkers, who were granted taccavi loans @ Rs. 875/- each, in the year 1948-49, are given below:-

1 Shri Sahib Singh s/o Shri Bhagat Singh.
2 ,, Harnam Singh s/o Shri Rail Singh.
3 ,, Bhagat Ram of Bharmal.
4 ,, Jandu Ram s/o Shri Nathu Ram.
5 ,, Hari Singh s/o Shri Khaili Ram.
6 Labhu Ram s/o Shri Kharka.
7 ,, Harbans Lal s/o Shri Nand Lal.
8 ,, Gorkhu Ram son of Shri Nedha Ram.
9 ,, Nika Ram Tulsi Ram son of Shri Dola,
10 ,, Anant Singh s/o Shri Shayama.
11 ,, Ganga Ram Doza Ram s/o Shri Giga Ram.
12 ,, Shanta Ram Badhith Singh s/o Shri Asa Ram.
13 ,, Chatar Singh s/o Shri Surat Singh.
14 ,, Ishar das s/o Shri Ram Dyal.
15 ,, Hari Ram s/o Phikhi.

[b] Permits for 20 tons of cement were issued.

[c] There is no approved firm in this district to whom quota of steel for big agricultural implements has been allotted.

GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN

***1413. Chaudhri Sunder Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Development be pleased to state —

[a] the steps taken by the East Punjab Government for the furtherance of the Grow More Food Campaign.

[b] the area of land brought under plough lying uncultivated or fallow before ;

[c] the area of land attached to Government institutions, offices, schools, colleges, bungalows and other buildings which has been brought under plough for the first time but which was not formerly cultivated ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

The information asked by the hon. Member is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the hon. Member when ready.

RECOVERY OF PROPERTY BELONGING TO EVACUEES

*1245. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Land Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

[a] the amount realised from each of the villages of police station Zira, district Ferozepore being the sale proceeds and cash belonging to the evacuee property from 1st January 1948 to 31st August 1949 ;

[b] [i] whether the amount was deposited in the Government treasury after its recovery from the villagers concerned ;

[ii] date of recovery from each village ;

[iii] the dates of deposit of the property in the treasury in each case ;

[c] whether any enquiry was made by the Deputy Commissioner Ferozepore on the receipt of a complaint sent by me regarding the sale proceeds from village Vakilwala, police station Zira, vide my letter No. 966, dated 20.6.49 ; if not the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi: [a] A statement ‡ showing the amount realized from the villages of P. S. Zira on account of sale of evacuee moveable property from 1-1-48 to 31-8-49 is laid on the table.

[b] [i] Yes.

[ii] Date of recovery is noted against each item in the attached statement. ‡

[iii] Chalan No. and date under which amount was deposited in Treasury is also recorded against each entry in the statement attached. ‡

[c] An enquiry was conducted by the Additional Deputy Commissioner under orders of Deputy Commissioner. A buffalo belonging to one S. Ajaib Singh had been brought to Zira by Shri Kundan Lal, Tehsildar, Zira. This was later auctioned but the sale was cancelled by the Additional Deputy Commissioner and the buffalo has been returned to S. Ajaib Singh pending decision of his claim by the Assistant Custodian, Ferozepore. Shri Kundan Lal did not bring any other cattle to Zira. A sum of Rs. 971/- was collected as auction proceeds and not Rs. 1070/- as noted in complaint. The amount of Rs. 971/- was duly credited into the Treasury. Further allegations of embazzlement made in the complaint have not been substantiated.

‡ Kept in the Library.

Statement I

Serial No.	Name of village in P. S. Zira.	Amount.			Date of recovery	Date of credit vide chalan.
1	P. S. Zira	1,248	3	6	21-6-48	No. 176, dated 21-6-48. (Rs. 1,248-3-6)
2	Chidray	446	14	0	23-6-48	
3	Chain Singh	228	4	0	24-6-48	
4	Bal Khadi	79	0	0	25-6-48	
5	Rainala	222	0	0	,,	
6	Mansua Deva	490	9	0	26-6-48	No. 23, dated 28-6-48. (Rs. 1,835-6-0).
7	Stole Butt	136	0	0	22-6.48	
8	Sukhjal	232	11	0	25-6-48	
9	Sukhawal	135	0	0	11-7-48	
10	Malhoke-Bandia and Amar Garh.	200	5	0	12-7-48	
11	Boota	199	0	0	13-7-48	
12	Boge	90	0	0	,,	Dated 15-7-48 (Rs. 2124-4-0).
13	Shah Bahakar	517	15	0	14-7-48	
14	Mandi Jamal	728	0	0	15-7-48	

DISPOSALS OF THE MOTOR CAR BELONGNIG TO RANA ABDUL HAMID OF RAHON

*1157. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Land Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state—

[a] whether it is a fact that the motor car No. 2278 APJ belonging to Rana Abdul Hamid of Rahon was taken into custody by the Custodian of the evacuee property, Jullundur District; if so, the date thereof;

[b] whether it is a fact that this car has since been disposedof; if so, how and when;

S. Sajjan Singh:

(c) Whether it was sold by public auction ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(d) the name of the person to whom this car was sold together with his full home address ;

(e) the total price paid for the said car together with the total repairing cost ;

(f) whether the repairing cost of the car in question was deducted from the sale price ;

(g) whether any motor mechanic or machanical engineer was consulted by the Custodian or any other officer before fixing the price of the car ; if so, the name of the officer so consulted together with the cansulting fee paid to him ;

(h) how the price of the motor car was determined and who was the final authority to pass orders regarding the fixing of price ;

(i) whether there is any provision in the rules authorising the Government to give an evacuee property on evalution ; if so, quote the rule ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

The information asked for by the hon. Member is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the hon. Member when ready.

POSSESSION OF LAND AY RIGHTFUL PERSONS.

*1259. **Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha:** Will the hon. Minister for Land Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether the Government has got the cases of those persons investigated who are in possession of more land than the area to which they are entitled; if not, does the Government propose to have them investigated ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) Since January, 1948, scrutiny of temporary allotments has been a regular feature of the rehabilitation administration and cases in which displaced persons succeeded in obtaining larger allotments than they were entitled to, were dealt with under the instructions laid down by Government, from month to month the area under allotment so cancelled was reported to Government.

(b) Does not arise.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CUTS AND BREACHES IN RASULPUR DISTRIBUTARY.

338 **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:-

(a) the number of cuts and breaches respectively in the Rasulpur Distributary in Amritsar District recorded by canal authoroties during the period from (1) Ist April 1946 to 15th August 1946, (2) 16th August 1946 to 31st March 1947 (3) Ist April 1947 to 15th August 1947, (4) 16th August 1947 to 31st August 1948, (5) Ist April 1949 to 15th August 1949 (6) 16th August 1949 to 5th October 1949.

(b) the place of occurrence of each cut or breach;

(c) whether it is a fact that the number of cuts or breaches (a) between Ist April 1949 and 15th August 1949, and (2) between 16th August 1949 and 5th October 1949, has been large than that in the period during the last 2 years, if so, the reasons thereof,

(d) whether the Government is aware of the fact that these cuts and breaches have adversely affected outlets at the tail of this distributary, if so, the steps Government propose to take in the matter to lessen the hardship caused to the villages at the tail.

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) & (b) The statement of cuts and breaches is placed on the table ‡

(c) Ist part --- No.
2nd part --- Does not arise.

(d) Ist part --- These cuts and breaches have not materially affected the tail supplies because they were closed by the Department in the minimum possible time. The irrigation at the tail in 1948-49 is more than that in 1946-47 and 1947-48.

2nd part --- Does not arise.

LABOUR HUTS AT NANGAL.

339. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state : –

[a] [i] When the labour huts for the work charge establishment a Nangal were constructed; [ii] the total number of such hut and [iii] the number of the families living therein;

‡ Kept in the Library

(S. Sajjan Singh)

[b] whether it is a fact that no drainage for these huts has been constructed during the last 2 years ;

[c] whether it is also a fact that the failure of the Government to construct the aforesaid drainage has affected the sanitation of the locality ;

[d] if the answers to parts [b] and [c] be in the affirmative, when does the Government propose to construct this drainage ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : [a] (i) Old labour huts were constructed in 1947 and the new double storeyed huts were built during 1949.

[ii] 235 rooms of old labour huts and 288 of new labour huts.

(iii) 465 families are living in both the old and new labour huts.

(b) No. Kacha drains for kacha quarters exist. These will be converted into pacca drains as part of the scheme for the drainage system of the Township. The work is in hand.

[c] No. Proper sanitation arrangements exist.

[d] Does not arise.

JUDICIAL LOCK-UP AT PATTI.

340. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Premier be pleased to state :—

[a] whether it is a fact that the Government promised to construct a judicial lock up at Patti, district Amritsar, during the last budget session ;

[b] the progress, if any, that has been made in the matter ; if not the reasons thereof ;

[c] the time by which the judicial lock up will be constructed at Patti ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : [a] No. The question regarding the construction of a judicial lock-up at Patti, is, however under the consideration of Government.

[b] Necessary plans and estimates for the construction of this lock-up are under preparation by the Public Works Department.

[c] As soon as the plans are ready and funds required for the purpose are voted by the Assembly.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

341. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Land Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the allotment of land at village Dialpura and Harike, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar, has been completed ;

(b) whether some of the allottees who were allotted lands in these villages temporarily in 1947-48, have been disturbed, though they were in their area of allocation and had the same kind of lands in Pakistan, if so, the reasons therefor together with the names of such allottees ;

(c) whether some other allottees who were not allotted lands temporarily in these villages have been alloted lands there, if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The information asked for by the hon. Member is not yet available. It will be communicated to the hon. Member when ready.

QUASI-PERMANENT ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO VILLAGERS OF TEHSIL LAHORE.

342. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Land Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that S. Suba Singh and other villagers of village Jahman, Tehsil Lahore, applied to the Director General Rehabilitation, Jullundur, that at the time of allotment of land on a quasi-permanent basis their whole village be rehabilitated at one place;

(b) whether it is also a fact that their application was acknowledged by the Director-General Rehabilitation,--*vide* his letter No. 969 I. C. D./S. P. K. dated the 11th February 1949.

(c) If the answers to part (a) and (b) be in the affirmative whether the request made therein has been acceded to or will be taken into consideration at the time of allotment; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

[a] Yes.

[b] Yes.

[c] Excepting those temporarily settled, within the area of allocation, where they can continue under the rules, displaced persons from village Jahman have been allotted land in two villages, Pakan and Banwala in tehsil Fazilka, district Ferozepur.

FAMILIES QUARTERS AT NANGAL

343. Sardar Sajjan Singh: Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:-

(a) the number of water taps provided for [i] officers families [ii] clerks and overseer's families [iii] work charge establishment labourers, at Nangal;

(b) the number of the families attached to each one of the taps mentioned in part [a];

(c) whether any distinction has been made while providing water taps to the families of the different catagories mentioned in part [a] if so, the reason therefor;

(d) whether the double storied huts recently constructed provide no sleeping accommodation at night over the roofs during summer, if so, the reasons thereof;

(e) what step the Government proposes to take to relieve the labourers of the hardships mentioned in part [d] above,

(f) whether any Khuras have been constructed for the bathing of ladies and other family members of the labourers in these huts, if not, the reasons thereof; [ii] whether the Government is aware of the fact that the absence of these Khuras is causing great hardship to the families living therein, if so, what steps the Government proposes to take to relieve them of these hardships;

(g) the average size of a room in the lower and upper storey respectively in these huts [ii] whether no separate kitchen room has been provided in the labourers' hut for a single family accommodation, if so, the reasons thereof ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) (i) One tap for four families of officers including their servants with an average of four families living in out-houses.

(ii) Two taps per block of 48 families in Senior Clerks quarters and 52 families of Junior clerks quarters. During summer additional supply is made through tankers.

(iii) One tap per block of 54 families living in married menial quarters.

(b) As per reply to para (a)

(c) Taps are provided according to the status of the establishment, their requirements and the availability of the materials.

(d) No. The second storey has a sloping roof which is necessary in this tract of heavy rainfall.

(e) A small verandah is provided in front of each room on the second storey to provide for sleeping accommodation during summer.

(f) (i) These huts are designed for un-married staff only. Separate quarters are being built for married labourers for which provision for Khurrahs etc. already exists.
(ii) Yes. Proper quarters for married labourers are already under construction.

(g) The size of lower room is 12' x 10' and upper room is 12.6' x 10.6'. Separate cooking places are provided both in the upper and lower storeys for each family.

ADJOURNMENT.

Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava): Sir I move-

That the Assembly at its rising this day shall stand adjourned sinedie.

The motion was carried.

PRIVILEGE MOTION REGARDING REMARKS OF SHRI BHIM SEN SACHAR IN THE PRESS.

Shri Virendra: Sir, yesterday I brought to your notice a news item in the 'Tribune' which in my opinion was a breach of the privileges of this honourable House and you were kind enough to promise to look into the matter and give your ruling.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry I could not get time to look into this question carefully. The hon Member, who raised this point, has not contacted me so far as I thought he would. I would ask the hon. Member, who made that speech, whether the press report as given in that paper is correct or not and whether he did make such remarks. As a general principle, speeches and writings reflecting on members in their parliamentary capacity, even when made outside the House, constitute a breach of privilege of the House. But, unforunately, under the present Constitution, the Chair or the House has not got an effective remedy to punish any member who is found guilty of such a breach. Under the new Constitution we are going to have some power. Parliamentary practice and convention require from every Member moderation and restraint while making speeches both inside and outside the House in connection with their parliamentary work.

I might as well refer to another unfortunate incident that took place a few days ago in the lobbies. I read in the papers that two Members of this House actually came to blows. Although nothing of the kind took place while the Assembly was on, still the

(Mr. Speaker)

Press report went on to say that it happened during the sitting of the Assembly. As to this incident I take this opportunity of informing the hon. Members that action can be taken against any Member who behaves in a disorderly manner not only inside the Chamber but within the precincts of the Assembly building with regard to any matter which has been the subject of discussion in the House. All the hon. Members of this Assembly belong to one group and I expect them to be guided by very high traditions set up in this very hall by our great leaders who, while fighting against a foreign Government, always kept in view the dignity of the House. I wish that the hon. Members will keep the same ideal before them and when coming to this House, inspite of personal differences, will maintain the decorum and dignity of the House. I request them not to be swayed by personal motives. Fair and constructive cirticism is their right. Important public matters should be discussed with constructive objective leaving aside personal or petty considerations.

Gentlemen, I would once again request you to keep up the dignity of the House and work for one object and one aim only and that is the welfare of the people of the Province. (*Cheers and loud applause*).

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know, Sir, whether this House is competent to take cognizance of any action of a Member of this House outside the Assembly building?

Mr. Speaker : For the information of the hon. Members, I may make it clear that if a Member makes any speech about any matter which has been discussed in the Assembly and which is a derogation to the dignity of the House, the House is competent to take action against him even though that speech is delivered outside the House.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know, Sir, if this ruling is applicable to speeches only or to writings also ?

Mr. Speaker : To writings also.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Some concession should be shown to the tender age of the hon. Member. (*Laughter*)

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish : As the matter regarding the speech of the ex-Premier which he delivered yesterday is very important, may I suggest that it should be referred to a Privileges Committee of this House ?

Mr. Speaker : I am considering this question.

AYURVEDIC AND UNANI PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. Speaker : The House will resume discussion on the Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners (Amendment) Bill.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) [*Hindi*] : Sir, yesterday I was saying that in the last session the House had a discussion on the East Punjab Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners Bill. In the statement of objects and reasons it was clearly laid down as to why the Bill was placed before the House.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member spoke on the motion yesterday also. I expect him not to repeat his arguments.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, it was clearly written that the Drug Act was going to be enforced from first of April. The Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners were not registered before. It was expressed on the floor of this House that these unfortunate Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners should be given a fair deal and that we should give them encouragement. We should provide them with all sorts of facilities in the matter of their education as well as in their daily work. So far, they had been deprived of these facilities and so the Bill was brought forward before the House.

Mr. Speaker : Is the hon. Member continuing his speech or is he starting afresh?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, yesterday I explained the reasons before the House. But I am going to say that although the Bill has not so far been enforced and no defect has come to light, this amendment has been brought forward. The hon. Premier has made a statement in this connection. But my submission is that had the Act been worked out and found wanting or had any defect been detected in practice, the Government would have been quite justified in bringing forward any amendment. I may also point out that another Bill, namely, the Indian Medical Degrees Bill, is going to be brought forward by the Government for enactment into law. If the Government holds out an assurance that it would not press for that Bill, then I might think of revising my opinion about the Bill under consideration.

Mr. Speaker : Yesterday the hon. Minister in charge assured that this Bill would not affect the Ayurvedic and Unani practitioners. In view of that assurance the hon. Member need not repeat his arguments

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I take it that the Government is not going to press this Bill?

Mr. Speaker : It was originally thought that the Bill by certain implications would affect the Ayurvedic and Unani practitioners also, but the hon. Minister assured that there was no ground for that fear.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : You will appreciate, Sir, that when this Bill is passed into an Act, the courts will interpret it by its wording and not by the speeches or assurance given on the floor of this House. Moreover the practitioners of other Indian systems of medicine...

Mr. Speaker : The question of other Indian systems of medicines is not before the House. We are discussing the East Punjab Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners (Amendment) Bill.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Sir, when the hon. Premier during the course of his speech assured that the Bill in question would not affect in any way the Vaids or Unani Hakims and that they would not be debarred from prescribing sulphanomides, may I know where then is the necessity of bringing forward that Bill?

Mr. Speaker : It shows that the hon. Lady Member has not read the original Act.

Shrimati Sita Devi : I have read every word of it. In fact I was the sponsor of that Bill.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, my point is that much time of the House would be saved if the hon. Minister makes a statement that the Government are not going to press the other Bill.

Mr. Speaker : The Minister is not going to make that sort of statement, nor am I going to ask him to do so.

Premier: On a point of order. The hon. Member should not be allowed to anticipate.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, the object which this Bill wants to achieve is not new.

Mr. Speaker : That was said yesterday also.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : No, Sir, I am going to quote it only now. This question is also under the consideration of other provincal Governments, namely the United Provinces, Madras and Bombay Governments. The Madras Government sought the opinion of the Central Government in this matter and the Director General, Health Services, Government of India, wrote to the Secretary, Academy of Indian Medicine, Bangalore, as follows :—

> 'I am to state that the Government of India have already ionformed the Government of Madras that there is no objection to A class practitioners of Indian Medicine who are registered by the Central Board of Indian Medicine in the Provincial Medical Register, under the orders of the Government being treated as registered medical practitioners for the purposes of Drug Rules.'

This clearly shows that no bar has been put on the practitioners of Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine and these systems are covered by the term 'Indian system of medicine'. But what does this Bill indicate ? It intends to preclude Ayurvedic add Unani systems from being treated at par with allopathic system of medicine. This is nothing but deliberately ignoring the realities. Some time ago specialists in Indian system of medicine met in a conference and agreed that both the systems of medicine i. e. allopathic and Ayurvedic or Unani could be practcied side by side with equal facility and efficacy. In view of this I see no reason why the Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine should be singled out and why the term 'Indian system of medicine' be taken to refer to only Ayurvedic and Unani system of mdicine in the parent Act. Now let me quote an extract from the speech of Shri Kher, Health Minister, U. P. Government. He says:

> I am sure Ayurveda will in course of time come to mean a system of medicine and surgery based on accurate knowledge of the body and mind of human beings..

He envisages science of surgery being closley associated with Ayurvedic system of medicine and practised by the Vaids. In other words the term 'Indian system of medicine' cannot be treated to include only Ayurvedic and Unani systems, but also other systems of medicine which are in vogue in India. It includes allopathy also. As a matter of fact if a measure of this nature had been put forward by the Central Government then the necessity of taking such a step might have been understood to some extent, and that too on the ground that the Central Government wanted to have a particular policy on all-India basis with regard to Ayurvedic and Unani system of medicine. Besides, the existing law in other provinces does not define the term Indian system of medicine, in the words which this Bill wants to connote. I fail to understand why our Government should be so anxious as to bring about this definition on the Statute. In this connection I would like to quote the opinion of Shri Rajagopalacharya, our Governor General. He says:—

> This system will include modern scientific knowledge alsongside of our traditional Ayurveda In your institution so that truth may run in a single course and prejudice and ignorance vanish to the minimum point.

You will see, Sir, even the Governor General feels the necessity of associating modern scientific knowledge with the Ayurveda but our Government holds the contrary view. I think they are under the influence of the allopathic doctors working under them and who do not like the practitioners of Ayurvedic or Unani systems of medicine being treated on equal footing with the allopaths. I, therefore, still maintain that there is no occasion or necessity for bringing forward this Bill. However, I think it would be better if the Government must enact it into law, it is circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon. If the public opinion is favourable then the hands of the Government would be strengthened. But if the legislation on this subject is rushed through, then the practitioners of Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine will be deprived of being registered in the same register in which the practitioners of allopathy have been registered. I would request the hon. Premier to give his careful consideration to the facts that we have put forward and the Bill should be suitably worded so that it should admit of no ambiguity and the courts may not experience difficulty while interpreting law. They would not be guided by the assurances or speeches of the hon. Premier delivered on the floor of this House.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is opposing the Bill and not speaking in support of his motion for circulation for public opinion.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Sir, I am asking the hon. Premier if he is even now prepared to withdraw it.

Mr. Speaker: That is why I say that you are opposing the Bill.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: I move----

That the East Punjab Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners (Amendment) Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by 1st March 1950.

Mr. Speaker: Motion under consideration, amendment moved----

That the East Punjab Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners (Amendment) Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by 1st March 1950.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly, representing Lahore city, General, (Women,) Urban), [*Hindustani*]: Sir, I rise to make a few observations in regard to the Bill now before the House. Hon. Members know it full well that the East Punjab Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners Bill which was enacted during the last Budget Session was moved by me in the form of a resolution last year in the month of October. When the Bill was passed into law, I congratulated the Government on taking such a step by which the people realized that their Government or in other words their responsibe Government had really done something substantial for them. But now I am really constrained to remark that by bringing in the Amending Bill, Government would be undoing whatever good it had intended to do under the original Act. I really fail to understand the reasons which necessitated the Government to bring forward the proposed amending Bill. The hon. Premier has in the course of his speech pointed out that the provisions of the amending Bill if enforced would in no way affect the Hakims and Vaids. If what he has stated is a fact, then may I know who else would be affected by it? I have stated in my Resolution that those Hakims and Vaids who qualify themselves in Dayanand and Sanatan Dharam Ayurvedic Institutions and Gurukul Kangri and other such institutions, should also be registered. Government had accepted my suggestion and had brought in a Bill to this effect which was passed into law during the last Budget Session. The hon. Premier knows it full well that in Gurukul Kangri the students are taught not only Ayurvedic or Unani Systems of medicine, but also Allopathic system of medicine. So far as the Hakims and Vaids qualified from these institutions are concerned they acquire full knowledge about both the systems of medicine i. e. Ayurvedic and Allopathic systems of medicine. Therefore, the Hakims and Vaids who have completed the prescribed courses in these institutions have passed their examinations like the doctors who have studied Allopathic system of medicine. These Vaids and Hakims have full knowledge about Allopathy too. It seems that the Government has brought in the proposed amending Bill simply to prevent the unqualified practitioners commonly known as the 'quacks' from exploiting the poor people.

Premier: Absolutely not. The argument advanced by the Lady Member is wrong and baseless.

Shrimati Sita Devi : I really fail to understand as to why our Government has considered it necessary to refer specifically to the Ayurvedic or Unani Systems of medicine instead of the Indian system of medicine as provided in the original Act when in other provinces such conditions have not at all been imposed. I am really constrained to remark that in spite of the fact that no defects whatsoever have been found in the original Act while enforcing its provisions, Government has found it necessary to bring in the proposed Amending Bill. The best course for the Government would have been to wait for some time more till the provisions of the original Act were enforced. In case some defects were found in it then those could be removed by promulgating an Ordinance or by making certain amendments in the original Act. I would, therefore, request the hon. Premier to withdraw the amending Bill.

Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindustani*) : Sir, before I say a few words in reply to certain remarks made by my hon. Friend Shri Ranbir Singh Mehta who has moved the motion for circulation of the Bill, I wish to make a few observations in regard to the remarks made by the Lady Member. She has made these concluding remarks in the course of her speech that we can promulgate an Ordinance or make some amendments in the Bill. For the information of the Lady Member I wish to point out that an Ordinance cannot be promulgated in such cases. An Ordinance is promulgated when an emergency arises and amendments cannot be made in any Act without the consent of the House. The Lady Member and the mover of the Amendment ought to have gone through the rules first and then made such objections.

Now about the amending Bill. For the information of the hon. Members I wish to read out the definition of 'Ayurvedic System' as defined in the original Act; it reads as under :

> Ashtang Ayurvedic System and includes the modernised form thereof including the Siddha.

We have not changed the definition, nor is it our intention to do so. However I wish to make this point clear for the information of the hon. Members in general and the two speakers who just preceded me in particular that by bringing in this Amending Bill, it is not the intention of the Government to deprive those Vaids and Hakims who qualify themselves in Ayruvedic or Unani Systems of medicine from Institutions like Gurukul Kangri, Benaras Hindu University or Tibya College. Those hon. Members who think in such terms are sadly mistaken. Some persons who are directly concerned with this system of medicine, came to me and raised certain objections. They said that the word 'modern' existed in the statement of objects and reasons of this Bill and that in the definition also the very word was being used. Here I read a few lines from the statement of objects and reasons which are as follows :

> Indian System of medicine including modern, Ayurvedic and Unani Systems.

[Premier]

However, I made them understand with whatever little knowledge of English I possess, that there is a comma after the word ' modern '. It is quite clear from the statement of objects and reasons of the proposed amending Bill that the Indian System of medicine includes every system of medicine practised in India. We have considered it necessary to refer specifically to the Ayurvedic or Unani system as we want to save it from becoming defunct. So far as the Ayurvedic or Unani Systems of medicine are concerned, the system of modern education is already included in these and this is clear from the definition as provided in the Bill. Let me also make this point clear that the rights and privileges which the Vaids and Hakims enjoy under the original Act, can in no case be affected by enacting the proposed Amending Bill.

Further I wish to submit that reference has been made about the Chopra Committee Report. It has been said that the Amending Bill has been brought in with a view to implementing the recommendations of this Committee. I wish to bring this point home to my hon. Friends that if we had to take any action according to this Report, then instead of bringing in the proposed Amending Bill, we would have sought the permission of the House to repeal it. I have gone through the Chopra Commitee Report We received messages from high quarters, and we also received recommendations to the effect that we should not bring in this legislative measure because the Government of India was soon going to pass a Bill into law on the lines of the recommendations of this Committee. Here I wish to make it clear that those persons who are at present enjoying their rights and privileges would not be able to do so in case the Central Government pass that Bill into Law. There are quite different things in the Chopra Committee Report. So far as the registration of the medical practitioners is concerned, the persons, who would like to register themselves under the provisions of the original Act, cannot be registered according to the recommendations contained in this Report. Inspite of the oft repeated recommendations which we received from those quarters not to bring in this legislative measure, we wrote to them that we were anxious that Hakims and Vaids should enjoy those rights and privileges.

So far as the colleges in other provinces where education in Ayurvedic or Unani Systems of medicine is imparted, are concerned, I have only to say that different Acts are in force over there. Under the Drug Act those medical practitioners who register themselves, are entitled to continue their practice. If we do not enact the proposed Amending Bill, its provisions will not have any effect whatsoever on the Drug Act but will instead affect those persons who in our opinion are not entitled to enjoy those rights and privileges or in other words those persons who though not knowing anything about Ayruvedic or Unani Systems of medicines, still want us to register them under the original Act. It is abundantly clear from this that if we register such unqualified persons, we would not be doing any real service to the cause of these systems of medicine but would instead be doing a great disservice to them. The proposed Amending Bill has

[Premier]

been brought in the House, simply with a view to reviving the Avurvedic and Unani Systems of medicine and also with a view to allowing qualified Hakims and Vaids to enjoy all rights and privileges. Despite the fact that our attention has often been invited by the Indian Medical Council and the Government of India towards the point that we should not bring in the proposed Amending Bill, we were anxious to make provision to refer specifically to the Ayurvedic and Unani Systems of medicine in the interests of Vaids and Hakims of our province. Under the circumstances, it really ill-behoves some of my hon. Friends to say that we have brought in the proposed measure simply with a view to implementing the recommendations already referred to by me. If they still continue to be under that impression, then I have no hesitation in saying that they are sadly mistaken .

I may assure this hon. House that even after the East Punjab Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners Act has been amended as proposed in this Bill, there will be nothing to prevent a Vaid or Hakim who has attended a course of instruction and holds a degree or diploma of Gurukul Kangri, Benares Hindu University, Tibya College Delhi, or the Sanatan Dharma or Dyanand Ayurvedic institutions, or who has a practice of 10 years to his credit, from getting himself registered and appearing in a law court for giving evidence. The only object of the amendments proposed in this Bill is to exclude from the purview of the Act those persons who practise a system of medicine other than Ayurvedic or Unani. For example, unqualified Allopathic practitioners might also claim to be practising an Indian system of medicine and desire registration under the Act. The Act, if amended as proposed, would make this impossible. It was certainly not the intention of the Act in question to provide for the registration of unqualified Allopathic practitioners. Their registration is a separate issue. So it is out of place and useless to quote the Chopra Committee Report in connection with this Bill, because its recommendations clash with the interests of the Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners, rather than furthering them. I may also state for the information of the House that before bringing this amending Bill before the House, we have consulted the representatives of those who are going to be affected by it and they have approved it. With these words, I would request the House to reject the motion which has just been moved and pass the Bill.

Mr. Speaker : Question is–

That the East Punjab Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners (Amendment) Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinon thereon by 1st March, 1950.

The motion was lost.

Mr Speaker: Question is –

That the East Punjab Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners (Amendment Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now consider the Blil clause by clause.

CLAUSES 2 TO 6

Mr. Speaker: Question is-

That clauses 2 to 6 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Mr. Speaker: Question is-

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker: Question is-

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Premier: Sir, I move-

That The East Punjab Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners (Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

GENERAL SALES TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : Sir, I present the report of the Select Committee on the East Punjab General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill.

Premier: I move-

That the East Punjab General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSES 2 AND 3

Mr. Speaker: Question is-

That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 4

Sardar Narotam Singh (Parliamentary Secretary): Sir, I move-

That after part (iii) of the clause the following new part be added.

(iv) for sub-clause (a) of sub-section (5) the following shall be substituted, namely:-
(a) in relation to any dealer who imports for sale any goods into East Punjab, when the value of goods imported amounts to 5,000 rupees.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker: Question is-

That clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 5, 6 AND 7

Mr. Speaker: Question is-

That clauses 5, 6 and 7 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 8

Sardar Narotam Singh: Sir I move-

That part (iii) of the clause be omitted.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker: Question is-

That clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 9 TO 17

Mr. Speaker: Question is-

That clauses 9 to 17 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried

CLAUSE 1

Mr. Speaker: Question is-

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker: Question is-

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Premier: Sir, I move-

That the East Punjab General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, as amended be passed.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved-

That the East Punjab General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, as amended, be passed.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepure, General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): Sir, to say that no Government can function without funds is to repeat a truism. It is also true that while raising funds by resorting to taxation, no Government should ignore the fundamental principle of public finance viz., the capacity of the people in general to pay taxes. While resorting to taxation, it is also necessary that the Government should try to curtail its expenditure with a view to balancing its Budget. The best Government is one which spends less on administration and more on benificent departments. There is no denying the fact that after the attainment of independence, a very heavy burden of responsibilities has come to rest on our shoulders. We have to admit with great regret that we have not proved equal to it. Inefficiency is rampant in our administration.

Mr. Speaker: Please speak to the point.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: I am opposing this Bill.

Mr. Speaker: Because you wanted to say something, I have allowed you to speak. But you are speaking as if you are opposing the Act itself, while this is only an amending Bill.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, the moment I am irrelevant, you may point it out to me and I will withdraw.

Mr. Speaker : You are irrelevant even now. You should oppose the amending Bill and not the original Act.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, what I want to impress upon the Government is that instead of increasing the burden of the already hard pressed people by enhancing the rate of taxes like the Sales Tax, it should find ways and means of curtailing its expenditure. It should first effect retrenchment and weed out unnecessary and inefficient personnel. No democratic Government can afford to ignore the interests of the masses unless, of course, the men at the helm of affairs have become senseless under the intoxicating effects of power that has come into their hands.

Sir, there is no denying the fact that after partition, the economic stability of the province has been completely undermined and the financial position of the people who have come from the West Punjab is much worse than before. People who were already the inhabitants of East Punjab are also faced with serious financial difficulties. Economically placed as they are, they will in no circumstances be able to bear the burden involved by the imposition of this tax. I would like to focus the attention of hon. Members on the fact that when this Bill was introduced before the House it was estimated that with the present rate of sales tax this scheme will result in an income of about rupees eighty lakhs to the Government annually. But according to the figures that are available it will be found that one crore of rupees have already been collected within the period of five or six months. I would, therefore, urge the Government that even if this Bill is passed the Government should accept a reduction in the rate of tax to make it less burdensome in character. Keeping in view the weakness of economic structure of our province, Government will be well advised to reduce the burden by lowering its rate. It will not augur well for the Government if it

persistently sticks to the old rate and puts more pressure upon the people who are already bankrupt. I am afraid that the effect of Government's action in this regard would result in a terrible strain on the already meagre resources of the common man. I am of the opinion that even if the measure is passed, it will be reasonable to reduce the rate to give it a redeemable feature. I fully realise that the Government has to devise schemes to meet its enormous expenditure for running the administration but unless it solves the bread-and-butter problem for the average citizen, the imposition of such a tax is hardly justifiable. I hope the hon. Premier will leave behind good traditions of this Government by accepting this demand and would first devote all his energies to the building up of a sound economic system of the province. Considering the general economic conditions of the province and the appallingly low income of the people, it is the duty of the Government to first organise our economy on a sound footing and then think of imposing such a tax upon the people.

Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I beg to be excused for taking the time of the House as after the speech of my hon. Friend Mehta Ranbir Singh it has become necessary for me to reply to his criticism. I would point out to you, Sir, that my hon. Friend was a member of the Select Committee and has appended his signature to its report without any note of dissent. He has not even made a suggestion for the reduction of rate of the tax.

Mr. Speaker: Was he a member of the Select Committee ?

Premier: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry to say that Shri Ranbir Singh Mehta should ask for a change now.

Premier: Now, Sir, my hon. Friend has remarked during the course of his speech that about one crore of rupees have been collected within five or six months under this Sales Tax Act. I may inform him that I receive monthly progress reports about the realisation of sales tax but I have not received such a report about the collection of one crore of rupees. I would say that his information is absolutely incorrect. I admit that the incidence of this tax would fall upon the consumer, but Government also wants to tap all sources of income to run its administration. We have watched the interests of the consumer and taken sufficient care to reduce the pressure of this tax on the average man. The necessities of life are already exempt from the sales tax and we propose to exempt some more articles such as rye, imli and scrapings of kikar. Whatever argumets have been advanced by my hon. Friend appear to have little force, and I would appeal to the hon. Members to pass this Bill.

Mr. Speaker: Question is-

That the East Punjab General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, as amended, be passed.

The motion was carried.

SIKH GURDWARAS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Sardar Swaran Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural): Sir, I introduce the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I move-

That the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1
Sub-Clause 2

Mr. Speaker: Question is-

That sub-clause (2) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 2

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh (Parliamentary Secretary): Sir, I move-

That in line 4, after the words "is found to be" the words "by the Board" be added.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker: Question is-

That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 3

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh: Sir, I move-

That for the existing clause the following be substituted-

Amendment of section 85 of Act, VIII of 1925 as amended by Act IX of 1944

3. (a) In sub-section 2 of section 85 of the Sikh Gurdwaras Act, the words "in consultation with local Committees" which occur after the word "shall" and the words "after consulting the local Committee for the Gurdwara or Gurdwaras concerned constituted under sub-section (3) which occur in the end of the said sub-section shall be omitted and there shall be" full stop after the word "meeting".

(b) Sub-sections 3, 4 and 5 of the said section be omitted.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker: Question is-

That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 4

Mr. Speaker: Question is-

That clause 4 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 5

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : Sir, I move—

That in line 3 after the words "is found to be" the words "by the Board" be added.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is-

That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 6

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : I move-

That in the proposed Sub-Section (2) of Section 96 of the said Act, lines 4 to 5, for the words "the Board may constitute the committee" the words "the Board may nominate such number of persons as have not been elected so as to complete the committee of Management" be substituted.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is-

That clause 6, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 7

Mr. Speaker : Question is-

That clause 7 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1
Sub-Clause (1)

Mr. Speaker : Question is-

That sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE.

Mr. Speaker : Question is-

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried

Sardar Swaran Singh: Sir, I move-

That the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill, as amended, be passed.

The motion was carried.

UTILIZATION OF LANDS BILL.

Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava): Sir, I beg to introduce the East Punjab Utilization of Lands Bill.

Premier (*Hindustani*) : I move–

That the East Punjab Utilization of Lands Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Sir, the aim of this Bill is to help to grow more food in this Province. We are applying all our resources in this connection and we cannot allow any cultivable tract of land to remain uncultivated. We wish to serve notices on all owners of such land that is uncultivated cultivable land, to properly cultivate it and in case they fail to do so Government will take possession of their land and make arrangement for its cultivation. The owners will doubtless be compensated and in case they at any stage think that they are in a position to put their land under the plough, it will be returned to them. The sole object of the Government in bringing this measure before the House is to produce more food.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved–

That the East Punjab Utilization of Lands Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-Clauses (2) and (3)

Mr. Speaker : Question is –

That sub-clauses (2) and (3) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 2

Sardar Ajit Singh (Parliamentary Secretary): Sir, I beg to move–

That in parts (c) and (d) for the words "East Punjab Evacuee Property (Administration) Act, 1949", the words "Administration of Evacuee Property Ordinance, 1949" be substituted.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Speaker : Question is -

That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 3 to 16.

Mr. Speaker : Question is –

That clauses 3 to 16 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-Clause (1).

Mr. Speaker : Question is-

That sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Speaker : Question is-

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Premier : Sir, I beg to move-

That the East Punjab Utilization of Lands Bill, as amended, be passed.

The motion was carried.

SUGAR FACTORIES CONTROL BILL.

Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindustani*): Sir, the former Minister in charge had placed the East Punjab Sugar Factories control Bill on the agenda. But as some hon. Members think that the provisions of this Bill as it has come out of the Select Committee are rather hard and unacceptable, I have decided to keep it pending. After this session is over, I shall consult the Department concerned and get the prices fixed which will be soon made known to the public by an Ordinance as the season of sugar cane is at hand. I may assure the House that the Governor will be good enough to accept my advice.

RESOLUTION.

ADMINSTRATION OF EVACUEE PROPERTY ORDINANCE, 1949.

Premier (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindustani*): Sir, I wish to make a statement about an important matter. We have not yet received from the Central Government the details of the Evacuee Property Ordinance promulgated by them, but from what has been gathered from the Press Communique issued in this connection, it appears that the provisions of this Ordinance are not satisfactory as these should have been. An attempt was made to arrive at some settlement with the Dominion of Pakistan regarding the property abandoned by displaced persons but without success. This has resulted in great inconvenience to the public. The decisions arrived at between the two Dominions for the sale or exchange of evacuee property yielded no useful results because soon after, the Pakistan Government started taking over thep roperty of even those persons who were living in Pakistan. This was the case not only in Sind but in Lahore also. About ten or twelve shops belonging to those persons who were living there to run those shops and were doing business there at low profits, were sealed by the Government. There is a long history behind this affair. In 1948, the Pakistan Government passed an Ordinance according to which the definition of evacuee property was so wide that there was need of a similar

[Premier]

Ordinance being issued by our Government, but it was not done. The Government of India tried to settle the whole matter by discussion with the Pakistan Government but it did not succeed in its attempt. The Ordinance which has now been promulgated does not satisfy the displaced persons and they feel that it is of no advantage to them. I, therefore, wish to convey their views on this matter to the Government of India. I wish that a resolution had been moved with respect to it, but as there is no time for doing so, I wish to make a statement embodying the views of the hon. Members of this House and request that it be conveyed to the Central Government. With these few remarks, Sir, I move--

That the House is of the definite opinion that the recent Ordinance of the Government of India relating to evacuee property is too weak and mild and is detrimental to the interests of displaced persons from Pakistan. Our displaced brethren have received the said Ordinance with feelings of grave disppointment as the Ordinance does not meet the requirements of the situation, and does not go far enough to help them in their rehabilitation. The Evacuee Property Ordinance promulgated in Pakistan makes it impossible for such of the Hindus and Sikhs who were living in Pakistan to continue their business in Pakistan as their business permises have been sealed and declared evacuee property. The position is altogether different under the new Ordinance promulgated by the Government of India which enables "Muslim Nationals of India" to retain property in India even though a majority of their relations have shifted and become Pakistan Nationals and are taking the fullest possible advantage of the property left by our displaced persons over there. These "Muslim Nationals" are allowed to retain their property in India even though they have already purchased on nominal price the property of our displaced persons in Pakistan. Before any evacuee property can be declared as evacuee in India an elaborate enquiry has to be gone into and it facilitates an easy disposal of the said property by an intending evacuee. In Pakistan, on the other hand, where property of our displaced brethren cannot be acquired under the Evacuee Property Ordinance there is nothing to prevent its acquisition under another Ordinance for ecnomic Rehabilitation.

This House, therefore, strongly appeals to the Government of India to amend this Ordinance forthwith or in the alternative to bring out another Ordinance to enable our displaced persons to adjust their losses and get themselves rehabilitated.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned sine die.
